Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-064
Tuesday
6 April 1993

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-064 6 April 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Rio Group Meets, Accepts Reinstatement of Panama *[Madrid EFE]* 1
'Several' Members Reject Panama's Readmission *[Madrid EFE]* 1
Group Accepts Reentry of Peru *[Lima TV]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Meets With Methodist General Assembly Delegates *[Havana TV]* 2
Castro Receives Honorary Doctorate from Bolivian University *[Havana TV]* 2
'Widespread' Reaction to Robaina Appointment Viewed *[Havana Radio]* 2
Isle of Youth Municipal Administrative Council Formed *[Havana TV]* 3
Culture Minister Hart Begins Visit to China *[Havana Radio]* 3
Bogota-Havana Air Link Inaugurated; Colombian Senator Comments *[Havana TV]* 3
Economic Cooperation President Visits Italy *[Havana Radio]* 3
Polish Trade Mission Visits 5 Apr *[Havana Radio]* 3
Red Cross Societies Respond to Request for Aid *[Havana Radio]* 4
Power Outages Affect Havana City Province *[Havana Radio]* 4
Health Ministry Links Eye Illness to 'Criminal' Embargo *[Havana TV]* 4
* Students Bound for Agriculture, Technical Studies *[GRANMA 12 Mar]* 7
* Activated Carbon Used in Biotechnology *[GRANMA 11 Mar]* 7

Haiti

Pro-Aristide Demonstration Staged in Port-au-Prince *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Mission Chief: Rights Monitors' Efforts Showing Results *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 7
Bazin Claims 'True Negotiations' Not Yet Under Way *[LE NOUVELLISTE 5 Apr]* 7
Organizations Propose Theodore, Emmanuel as Prime Minister *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
New People's Movement Opposes Foreign Presence *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Officer Attempts To Reassure Jeremie Population *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
National Penitentiary Inmates Threaten Hunger Strike *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Air Force Commander Comments on Truth Commission Report *[San Salvador TV]* 10
FMLN's Gonzalez on Army Purge, Missiles Destruction *[San Salvador Radio]* 10
FMLN Reports Last Weapons Cache Abroad Destroyed *[DIARIO LATINO 1 Apr]* 10
More Soldiers Freed as Result of Amnesty Law *[San Salvador TV]* 11

Guatemala

URNG Conditions Cease-Fire on Demilitarization *[PRENSA LIBRE 4 Apr]* 12
Jalapa Magistrates Moved After Receiving Threats *[Guatemala City TV]* 12
* Reportage on 1992 Guerrilla Warfare Activities 12
* Civilian Victims *[EL GRAFICO 24 Jan]* 12
* Army, URNG Clashes *[EL GRAFICO 24 Jan]* 13
* EGP Most Active *[EL GRAFICO 24 Jan]* 13

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister on Release of U.S. Aid *[Managua Radio]* 13
Deputy Presidency Minister Comments *[LA PRENSA 3 Apr]* 14
UNO Leaders Praise Disbursement *[LA PRENSA 4 Apr]* 15
Two Cubans Attempt To Obtain Forged Passports *[LA PRENSA 3 Apr]* 15

Panama

Ford Questions PRD Attitude in Favor of Amnesty *[LA PRENSA 4 Apr]* 16
Civic Renewal Party To Support March Against Amnesty *[Panama City TV]* 16
Government, Colombia Seek Border Development Agreement *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 4 Apr]* . 17
Public Force Destroys Coca Plantations in Darien *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 5 Apr]* 17
Explosive Device Thrown at Legislator's Home; No Victims
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 5 Apr] 17

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Foreign Ministry To Protest UK Decision To Extend Maritime Zone
[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS] 19
Menem, Defense Minister Commemorate Falklands Anniversary
[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS 2 Apr] 19
Institute Expresses Concern Over Negotiations With UK *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 20
UCR Senator Proposes Regular Flights to Falklands *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 20
New Defense Minister Takes Oath of Office 5 Apr *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 20
To Analyze Military Justice Reform Bill *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 21
CGT Criticizes Government Economic Policy *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 21
Government Deregulates Health Care System *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD2 Apr]* 21
Menem Rejects Labor Group's Strike Threats *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 22
Former Government Official Denies Sale of Submarines *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 22
26 Percent in Poll Rate Menem's Administration 'Good' *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 2 Apr]* 23
Admirals Council Files Slander Suit Against SOMOS Magazine *[TELAM]* 23
Proposed Radioactive Dump in Salinas Grandes Challenged *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 24
Two Company Managers Receive Parcel Bombs in Cordoba *[TELAM]* 24

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Returns From European Tour *[Madrid EFE]* 24
Candidate Banzer's Campaign Helicopter 'Damaged' *[La Paz Radio]* 24

Brazil

Missior To Try To Block U.S. Sanctions 15-16 Apr *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 3 Apr]* 25
Franco's Decreasing Popularity Viewed *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 4 Apr]* 25
Supreme Court Confiscates Collor's Assets *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 25
Government Fails To Pay Interest to World Bank, IDB *[Brasilia Radio]* 26
Federal Agents Involved in Drug Deal in Manaus Arrested *[Brasilia Radio]* 26

Chile

Economic Talks With Bolivia Termed 'Difficult' *[Santiago Radio]* 26
Ministers Announce Economic Agreement *[Santiago Radio]* 27
Highlights of Chilean-Venezuelan Joint Declaration *[Madird EFE]* 27
Communist Party To Run in 60 Districts in December Election *[Santiago Radio]* 27
Leftist Candidate Denies Negotiations Over Posts *[Santiago TV]* 28

Colombia

ELN Expresses Willingness To Resume Peace Talks *[EL TIEMPO 2 Apr]* 28
Government Minister Rules Out Talks With Rebels *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 28
Escobar Liaison Surrenders to Antioquia Authorities *[EL TIEMPO 1 Apr]* 28
Army Reports on Struggle Against Guerrillas *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 29
Article Outlines Medellin Cartel *[EL TIEMPO 30 Mar]* 29
Kidnapped Ecopetrol Official Dead; Workers To Strike *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 31
* Social Development Plan for Uraba Discussed *[EL ESPECTADOR 8 Mar]* 31

Paraguay

Wasmosy Denies Criticizing President Rodriguez *[ULTIMA HORA 2 Apr]* 33
'Maneuver' To Remove 'Bothersome' Colorado Candidates *[NOTICIAS 3 Apr]* 33
Candidate Caballero Expresses Doubt on Stroessner's Support *[ULTIMA HORA 5 Apr]* 34
Polls Show Caballero Vargas Victory If Elections Held 'Today' *[NOTICIAS 4 Apr]* 34
Fifty Percent of Voters Said Colorado Party Members *[NOTICIAS 5 Apr]* 35
Foreign Minister Says Closure of Argentine Canal 'Only Alternative' *[ABC COLOR 5 Apr]* 36
Army Commander Labels Argentina's River Diversion as 'Usurpation' *[ABC COLOR 5 Apr]* 36

Peru

Fujimori Gives 5 Apr Coup Anniversary Address *[Lima Radio]* 36
Fujimori Says Outlook for Overcoming Underdevelopment 'Improved' *[Lima TV]* 39
Poll on President's Popularity, Support for 5 Apr Coup *[Lima TV]* 39
Fujimori Says Political Classes Must be Renewed *[Madrid EFE]* 40
Justice Ministry Dismisses 26 La Libertad Judges *[Lima Radio]* 40
APRA Members Stage Disturbances in Lima *[Hamburg DPA]* 40
Police, Army Forces Clash With Shining Path *[Lima Radio]* 41
Abimael Guzman Transferred to Naval Base *[Lima TV]* 41

Venezuela

* Velasquez: AD Conspiring Against Causa R 41
* Plan To Thwart Election Win *[EL NACIONAL 4 Mar]* 41
* AD Refutes Allegations *[EL NACIONAL 5 Mar]* 42

Rio Group Meets, Accepts Reinstatement of Panama

PY0604021293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2350 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 5 Apr (EFE)—The Rio Group today accepted Panama's reinstatement among its members, but its status will be different from what it was before it was expelled in 1988. Enrique Silva Cimma, Chilean foreign minister and provisional Rio Group secretary, today said Panama may join the group as part of the Central American bloc. The Rio Group of foreign ministers, who are meeting in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz, 851 km east of La Paz, have decided to release a declaration in which they state "that the reasons to expell Panama no longer exist."

The Chilean foreign minister said the Colombian Government will explain to the Panamanian Government the mechanism for Panama to rejoin the Rio Group.

'Several' Members Reject Panama's Readmission

PY0504205993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1608 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 5 Apr (EFE)—Several members of the Rio Group have rejected Panama's readmission into this organization even though the majority had planned to approve it during the Rio Group foreign ministers meeting that opened in Santa Cruz today.

Diplomatic sources told EFE that several countries, mainly Brazil and Mexico, believe Panama should be included in Central America for its participation in the Rio Group. Therefore, Panama's readmission into the Rio Group as another member should definitely be forbidden.

The Central American countries are represented in the Rio Group by Honduras, but Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro attended the Santa Cruz meeting representing Central America to explain the progress of the peace process in his country.

Panama, one of the founders of the Rio Group, was separated from this organization in 1988 through the Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) communique as a result of the overthrow of Panamanian President Eric Arturo del Valle by General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The Rio Group became a permanent mechanism of consultation and political agreement through the declaration of Rio de Janeiro of 18 December 1986 signed by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuala. Initially these countries were part of the support group of the so-called Contadora Group, made up of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, to mediate for the pacification of Central America.

The Rio Group consists of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras (representing Central America), Jamaica (representing the Caribbean), Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuala.

Group Accepts Reentry of Peru

PA0604045493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The Rio Group has accepted Peru's reentry into the advisory and political coordination organization. The decision was made after the Venezuelan Government lifted its veto against Peru.

Cuba

Castro Meets With Methodist General Assembly Delegates

FL0504010493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] On 2 April, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro met with bishops, ministers, and lay leaders delegates to the Sixth General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Methodist Churches, which is being held in Cuba. During the meeting, they talked about the situation of Latin American peoples and numerous topics relating to the history, objectives, and activities of the Methodist Church, especially in the socialist bloc, and its feelings of friendship and solidarity with Cuba.

Fidel recounted the origin of the embargo and the damage it has done to our people and explained how its effects have increased because of the disintegration of the socialist bloc and the Torricelli Law, which has substantially affected the population's standard of living.

The ministers condemned this U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, which they called anti-Christian. More than 100 representatives from 21 countries from Latin America, Europe, and Asia are participating in the event. Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera was also present during the meeting with the commander in chief.

Castro Receives Honorary Doctorate from Bolivian University

FL0404215493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro received an honorary doctorate from the Technical University of Oruro, Bolivia. This title was conferred through a decision of the Honorable University Council of this institution. The accrediting diploma for the academic distinction was given to Fidel by (Alfredo Belot Frontanilla), dean of the Technical University of Oruro. [passage omitted]

[Begin Fidel Castro recording] For us, a gesture like this one by the University of Oruro encourages us. It strengthens us. It bolsters us to continue the fight. We will remember these fraternal and affectionate words. This word Brother the dean used on behalf of Bolivians, on behalf of the university: You can be sure that not only will we be brothers forever with Bolivia, but, we feel, something more: close and inseparable brothers with Bolivia.

We will always know how to honor the confidence that you have in us. We will always know how to cherish these honors you have so generously given us. We will always be true to this confidence and affection. Please tell all the university teachers, workers, and students about our deepest recognition and extreme gratitude [words indistinct]. [end recording]

'Widespread' Reaction to Robaina Appointment Viewed

PA0304032993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Miguel de la Guardia commentary]

[Text] The appointment of Roberto Robaina as the revolutionary island's new foreign minister has had widespread reaction, both in Cuba and abroad. Robaina, the popular leader of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] until just a few days ago, has always been a leader in constant contact with the people. He has always mixed with the inquisitive young masses, who are the very drive and force of the Cuban revolution.

The diplomatic community in Havana received the appointment with some surprise. According to these circles, this broke away from the traditional method of choosing a foreign minister from among the more experienced and seasoned officials in foreign policy. They do admit, however, that Robaina is a very intelligent and dynamic young man with a creative spirit who can set an even more novel and constructive course for Cuban diplomacy.

Foreign observers and specialists, such as (Gilliam Gun), from Georgetown University, believe the appointment of Robaina moves a whole generation forward and furthermore, that the Cuban Government wishes to make it clear that the doors are wide open for the younger generation in this country. We would have to make it clear that those doors have always been open in revolutionary Cuba, which has always been nurtured by the vibrant young blood that brought it to life in the very beginning of the Cuban odyssey, over 100 years ago.

Other observers have seen Robaina's appointment as a second unexpected turn in the revolution, following the landslide election of former Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon—a brilliant diplomat of renowned international prestige and a veteran of endless international battles in defense of Cuba's revolution—as the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, Cuba's legislature.

Robaina, 37, is the youngest member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba. He reached this position by his own merit, after spearheading the spectacular renovation of the UJC. Robaina's arrival at the head post of Cuban revolutionary diplomacy is much less of a surprise for the Cuban people, as they have seen him reach success in his political career as the leader of the new generation. They now recognize his capability to reach new success in the difficult world of foreign policy, where Cubans such as Raul Roa Garcia and Ricardo Alarcon de Quezada paved the way for others and set an example to be followed.

Isle of Youth Municipal Administrative Council Formed

FL0304024793 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The Isle of Youth Municipal Administrative Council was formed today during the second extraordinary session of the Isle of Youth government body. The official formation was attended by the top leaders of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], headed by ANPP President Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada. As is known, the formation of the administrative councils is part of the improvement process of the bodies of the People's Government, which was analyzed during the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC].

[Begin Alarcon recording, in progress]...based on experiences acquired in previous years, seeks to simplify the administrative mechanisms on local and provincial levels; to have those responsible for dealing with specific problems handle them; to make the operational methods of our administrative bodies more flexible on all levels; and to distinguish between People's Government bodies—the municipal assembly, in this case, or the provincial assembly in the provinces—from strictly administrative bodies. [end recording]

Jaime Crombet and Ernesto Suarez, ANPP vice president and secretary, respectively, also participated in the formation of the Isle of Youth Municipal Administrative Council. Also present were Central Committee members Jesus Montane and Emilio Gonzalez, first PCC secretary in the Isle of Youth.

Culture Minister Hart Begins Visit to China

FL0304165393 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1514 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart arrived today in Beijing for an official one-week visit as the result of an invitation by Chinese authorities. Hart arrived in Beijing from Madrid and was met at the airport by Liu Zhongde, who was just chosen by the National Assembly to be the culture minister, a responsibility that he filled temporarily.

The Cuban culture minister is fulfilling his second mission to Beijing, where he arrived for the first time exactly 32 years ago as education minister of the recently triumphant Cuban revolution.

Besides his meetings with Liu Zhongde and other Chinese leaders, Hart will tour points of interest in China, such as Sian, an ancient imperial capital, and Guangzhou, the capital of Canton located in the middle of the country.

Bogota-Havana Air Link Inaugurated; Colombian Senator Comments

FL0504231093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The Bogota-Havana air link that will bring tourists to Cuba has been inaugurated. Senator (Tito Edmundo Rueda), president of the Colombian senate and congress [title as heard], was on the first flight.

Senator (Rueda) is in Cuba in response to an invitation extended by the Cuban legislature. He was met at Jose Marti International Airport by Jaime Crombet, vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

[Begin (Rueda) recording] We have some magnificent intentions, and we want, precisely, to exchange ideas about all the advances and about everything that is going on now to be able to offer each other mutual cooperation. That is why, from the moment they extended the invitation to me, we did not doubt for a minute we would make this visit, which will without a doubt be productive for both countries. [end recording]

Also in the Colombian delegation are other senators and businessmen interested in learning about certain economic and social aspects in Cuba. The delegation will remain in Cuba until 10 April.

Economic Cooperation President Visits Italy

FL0504222293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Catharine Nertini, executive director of the World Food Program, WFP, today pointed to Cuba as a model of good administration for the Third World due to the way the Las Tunas milk production development program has been carried out. The WFP's director said this upon meeting at WFP Headquarters with Ernesto Melendez, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], who has been in the Italian capital since yesterday. He is there to participate in a meeting with Italian businessmen.

Nertini showed a willingness to visit Cuba as soon as her work schedule permits, as well as to get the WFP to approve an emergency food project because of the recent disasters that have occurred in Cuba.

Melendez later participated in a news conference to launch a study on the Cuban economy.

Polish Trade Mission Visits 5 Apr

FL0504195693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Cuba has become the eighth country to be visited by a Polish trade mission that has been touring different countries of the continent with the main goal of extending its trade relations and investments. Previously, the Polish businessmen visited Brazil, Paraguay,

Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Jamaica in a tour organized by the Polish Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the day, they will explore possibilities of the participation of 10 commercial and industrial firms with the Republic of Cuba. Our reporter Gisela Belle Heredia has more information.

[Heredia] The meeting between our country and the Republic of Poland's multifaceted mission was viewed as important and promising. The meeting began this morning at the Habana Libre Hotel in the capital.

The Polish business group is headed by Mr. (Mare Gratski), vice president of the Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and is made up of 10 other representatives from different firms that belong to the chamber of that country. (Gratski) presented his delegation and explained the objectives of each one of its members and the activity they carry out in the Polish economy.

[Begin (Gratski) recording] Mr. (Angleic Novak), head of the [words indistinct] firm, tries to increase all the lines of production in the food industry around the world, specifically anything that has to do with juices. (Propo Angel Lavishlak), head of the consultative council of the (Animek) firm, is responsible for an ample commercial range. [end recording]

[Heredia] Comrade Porfirio Mederos, acting president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the importance of the Polish trade mission, the possibilities for agreements, and Cuba's willingness to facilitate the mechanisms for the materialization of those interests. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and the National Bank of Cuba, among other organizations, are attending the work meetings that will conclude tonight.

The talks between Polish and Cuban businessmen will conclude with the signing of a letter of intent that expresses the possibilities proposed and ways of materializing business objectives between the two countries.

Red Cross Societies Respond to Request for Aid

FL0304031093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0232 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The Cuban Red Cross received a quick and effective response to its call to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for the damages suffered by the country since the storm of the century. Aid worth 275,000 Swiss francs will be distributed shortly to the affected population by the people's councils and public health units.

(Eugenio Roca Riba), a representative of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in emergency cases, said that Red Cross Societies from Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, and Great Britain, among others, quickly responded to this request. Dr. Esmildo Gutierrez, secretary general of the Cuban Red Cross, said that the important thing about these donations is not just their monetary value but the gesture of sending them during these very difficult times through which Cuba is living.

Power Outages Affect Havana City Province

FL0504184793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1434 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Since 1100 GMT today, interruptions due to a deficit in electrical service-generating capability have been affecting Havana City Province.

A report from the basic organization of Havana City Province states that if the situation continues, power outages will be in effect in Boyeros, Diez de Octubre, Arroyo Naranjo, Plaza, and Cerro between 1300 GMT and 1700 GMT; in Guanabacoa, Regla, Cotorro, San Miguel del Padron, La Habana del Este, Marianao, Playa, and La Lisa between 1700 GMT and 2100 GMT; in Boyeros, Diez de Octubre, Arroyo Naranjo, Plaza, and Cerro between 2100 GMT and 0000 GMT; and in the municipalities of Centro Habana, La Habana Vieja, Marianao, Playa, and La Lisa between 0000 GMT and 0300 GMT.

Health Ministry Links Eye Illness to 'Criminal' Embargo

FL0504013893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The newspaper GRANMA of 3 April carries in its center pages a report addressed to the population and signed by the Ministry of Public Health on the illness called optic neuritis [neuritis optica].

The text is as follows: Before drawing up this report for the population, the Public Health Ministry and numerous Cuban scientific institutions, under the direction of Civil Defense, have tried to delve as deeply as possible and carefully analyze ways of prevention and therapy that can be used against this eye illness that has appeared recently in epidemic proportions in our country.

The Public Health Ministry says that because of this, proper information can already be made public, as can the measures that are going to be taken in the immediate future to confront and halt this illness.

Optic neuritis first appeared in isolated cases and was first detected in Pinar del Rio Province last year. In the last few weeks of that year, the number of cases grew significantly and the illness was detected to a greater or lesser degree in the rest of the nation's provinces.

This illness has been previously described in the world. The epidemiological pattern as it has been occurring in our country is behaving in an anomalous way; according to international experience, its extent and acuteness are unusual.

On this occasion, as in former situations in which Cuba has had to confront epidemics and in spite of the criminal embargo by the United States that we are under—and its brutal recrudescence and internationalization by means of the Torricelli Amendment, as well as the blow our economy has suffered because of the fall of the socialist bloc and the collapse of the USSR—our people can count on a strong and well-prepared health care system with which to confront the situation and on the full support and active participation of numerous institutions created to ensure the protection of the lives and health of our people and their achievements, as well as on an army of scientists and health care workers of an extremely high quality and productivity.

All these forces, and the organized population, will turn this battle into another victory of the public health care system in Cuba—a victory of science, the Cuban people, and the revolution.

The Public Health Ministry report explains that this illness is characterized by a deterioration of vision in both eyes, which appears gradually and gets progressively worse. According to the research conducted, it affects mainly the adult population—predominantly males—and is accompanied by disturbances in the ability to distinguish colors. The illness appears to have several different causes. There is no evidence whatsoever that it is contagious.

The Public Health Ministry points out that the risk factors directly associated with optic neuritis are:

The habit of smoking dut to components in cigars or cigarettes, such as cyanide, nicotine, carbon monoxide, and tars, that act as toxic substances harmful to health;

Vitamin deficiencies, especially those related to the B-complex, since these vitamins act on the mechanisms for eliminating various toxic substances from the organism; and

Drinking alcoholic beverages. These too constitute a toxic element, for the organism. They slow down the absorption and metabolization of the B-complex vitamins.

According to world medical literature, often simply suspending the use of the toxic substances that can cause this illness brings about a normalization of vision. The illness can occur, albeit rarely, in people who do not smoke or drink alcoholic beverages due to other toxic factors that may or may not be related to a deficiency in the B-complex vitamins.

Numerous emergency research projects are underway to determine precisely the importance, weight, and interaction of these factors in the illness and to find out whether there are other factors not yet identified.

GRANMA stresses: It is important to point out that numerous reports—some of them fostered by the enemy in an attempt to confuse people as to the causes of the illness and even attributing the illness to certain food products of great importance, such as soybeans, which constitute the fundamental nutritional base of many countries—are unfounded.

The Public Health Ministry informs the population that people recover satisfactorily from this illness if it is diagnosed and treated early and if the person affected abandons the toxic habits of smoking and drinking alcoholic beverages.

Without highlighting any other enemy actions related to this illness that future research might turn up evidence of, we can today beyond a shadow of a doubt point to the United States—with its criminal economic embargo of our country which makes it difficult for us to acquire and drives up the cost of foodstuffs and medicine—as the main ally of this epidemic and its consequences.

We do not mean to hold the United States' current administration responsible for things that are the result of the relentless policy of hostility and aggression against our people that the governments of the United States carried out for many years, especially in recent times: the Reagan and Bush governments.

There was a recrudescense late last year of the brutal embargo we have been suffering for over three decades. The United States took that policy to extremes unprecedented in international law by trying to force other countries, through the Torricelli Amendment and other means, to observe measures meant to asphyxiate Cuba totally just as the socialist bloc and the USSR collapsed, thereby causing us to lose over 70 percent of our imports.

The GRANMA report continues: Today, the procurement of foods and medicines that we need is being obstructed. Our obtaining credits to these ends is being obstructed. The transporting of merchandise we import is obstructed. Enormous pressures are applied to force boycotts of any and all agreements and exchanges with countries and companies that may help Cuba stand up to its economic difficulties.

GRANMA says, today, that with a view to uniting all the nation's efforts and wit so as to face up to this health problem, the leadership of our Party and government has directed that the National Operational Group [Grupo Operativo Nacional] be formed, as well as operational groups at the provincial and municipal levels, headed by the presidents of the provinces' respective people's government assemblies.

The health care system's network of centers—from the Family Doctor Program physicians to hospitals and institutes—are ready to tackle the situation. Five hundred thirty-seven specialists in opthalmology, and 100 residents—neurologists, intensive care specialists, epidemiologists, and other specialists—work at these facilities. There are 60 centers in Cuba for the confirmation of the diagnosis. The number of centers could increase in accordance with need. Six main lines of research are underway, some with studies branching off into as many

as eight directions, all related to optic neuritis. Twenty-five centers are working on this research directly, and many more are supporting it.

The most modern methods are being employed in treating this illness. Patients are given vitamin therapy and are told to eliminate or cut down on smoking and alcoholic beverages, which are the basic methods that have been recognized as effective.

Furthermore, in addition to other treatments, patients are being given hyperbaric oxygen therapy, magnetotherapy, ozone therapy, and steroids.

The Public Health Ministry informs the population that a preventive measure is being applied to the most vulnerable demographic groups. The measure consists of a vitamin supplement consisting of B-complex vitamins. In Pinar del Rio Province, this measure has already been extended to the entire population, and is given free. To ensure that every person receives the vitamin supplement, it was decided to distribute it through the Family Doctor Program physician—and, where there is no Family Doctor Program physician, through the participation of Public Health Ministry personnel, with the support of the people's councils and the mass organizations of the different provinces. The distribution is carried out, and the results are evaluated, in this way.

This measure will be expanded gradually until the population of all provinces has been supplied with the vitamin suplement. This is to conclude in the month of May.

The program is an ambitious one. The raw materials and pertinent medicines are brought in from abroad using the most rapid means of transporation available. In this the nation is investing, without the slightest hesitation, however much of its scarce resources as may prove necessary.

Cuba's Public Health Ministry recommends reducing or eliminating the toxic habits that put people at the highest risk of contracting this disease, which are smoking and the frequent imbibing of alcoholic beverages. People should be careful about making, distributing, and consuming alcoholic beverages and other products of non-institutional manufacture—bottled in containers, at places, and using raw materials that are inappropriate and that do not meet the minimum sanitary requirements for human consumption. People should hasten to seek medical help should they notice a progressive deterioration—clearly perceptible—in their vision. All afflicted persons should comply strictly with the therapeutic instructions given them by specialists, and should stay in contact with medical units until they have been given a final medical discharge.

People should heed only whatever information and recommendations are provided officially, turning a deaf ear to rumors, a majority of which are aimed at causing confusion.

People should remain calm and composed, not allowing themselves to be dragged into becoming alarmed or fearful, as our enemies would like. People can be sure that all the appropriate measures to confront and solve the problem have been taken. People must trust in the ability of the nation and the Revolution to protect and guarantee the population's health under any circumstances.

Cuba's health care system and the indicators achieved represent one of our people's most prized achievements, and cause for pride in the revolutionary accomplishment that is acknowledged by the entire world—even by our enemies.

Cuba's mother-infant health indicators are superior to those of all the countries of Latin America and the Third World, and also superior to those of many developed countries. Cuba belongs to the group of slightly over 20 countries in the world that have infant mortality rates of 10 or lower [per 1,000 live births]. The scientific potential achieved by the revolution and the development attained by biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry allow Cuba to consider itself a real power in the sphere of health, and allow our population to enjoy—many times before other countries, even developed ones—advances in science and technology applied to solving health problems.

Examples of this are scientific achievements such as PPG. The number of Cubans benefiting from this product, unique in the world, will reach 1 million this year. This product combats the consequences of high cholesterol, and arteriosclerosis, and prevents cardiovascular accidents. Antimeningitis vaccine, unique in the world, has turned our children and other members of the population at risk into the first to be protected against Type B meningitis.

We also have the SUMA system [Ultra Micro Analytic System], which permits us to extend diagnostic methods for dozens of diseases to the entire country; the vaccine against viral hepatitis Type B, which turns Cuba into one of the few countries that protect their population against this important illness, and into one of the world's few producers of the vaccine; and the availability of medicines that require extremly high technology to produce—such as the natural and recombinant interferons, the skin-growing factor, streptokinase, monoclonal antibodies, and others—which permit our health services to use the most advanced methods to treat viral illnesses, serious burns, heart attacks, transplant rejections, and other such things.

GRANMA points out that our health care system has even been able to break down and bring under control health scourges and problems the causes of which even very highly developed countries have not been able to eliminate. In any other country, an epidemic of these proportions would have been a true disaster, and would have cost an incalculable number of lives. In all cases in

our country, the action taken by our institutions, specialists, and the population in general, has been effective and victorious. We will face this new challenge, too, resolutely and successfully.

Signed: Ministry of Public Health.

* Students Bound for Agriculture, Technical Studies

93P20121A

[Editorial Report] Havana GRANMA in Spanish of 12 Mar 1993 on page 3 reports that 62,800 secondary school graduates, i.e., 58 percent of the total number of graduates, will go on to technical and vocational studies; 27,000 students to studies in agriculture; 24,000 students to industrial studies; 4,300 to economics; 7,600 will enter technical education centers; 41,900, or 38 percent, will study a preuniversity curriculum. The article reports further that approximately 5,000 recipients of technical and vocational education degrees will teach agriculture and livestock techniques; 8,700 will teach industrial studies; 3,500 will teach economics. The article also reports that more than 50 percent of the 13,000 students entering universities will study education.

* Activated Carbon Used in Biotechnology

93P20121B

[Editorial Report] Havana GRANMA in Spanish of 11 March 1993 on page 2 reports that more than 12 medical and scientific institutions are using activated carbon produced in Cuba to recycle reagents used in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. The article reports that although Cuba imports activated carbon, an experimental plant installed at the Research Center for the Mining and Metallurgy Industry (CIPIMM) is able to meet the demand for activated carbon for certain processes related to medicine and biotechnology.

Haiti

Pro-Aristide Demonstration Staged in Port-au-Prince

FL0504162493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Some 200 to 300 partisans of ousted President Aristide staged a demonstration on 3 April in Port-au-Prince, at the end of a religious procession, to protest against the current civilian and military authorities.

The procession took place without incident in Carefour Feuille after a mass celebrated at the Saint-Gerard Church. The demonstration was staged in support of Willy Romelus, the Jeremie bishop who was victim of an attack on 25 February in the Port-au- Prince Cathedral. The demonstrators used slogans hostile to the authorities. The organizers of the demonstration included Father Jean-Juste, close to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Mission Chief: Rights Monitors' Efforts Showing Results

FL0504162693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The head of the international civilian mission, Collins Granderson, has announced that the civilian mission monitoring the respect of human rights in Haiti has been established in the nine geographic departments of the country. Fifty-two members of the mission are now installed in Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haitien, Fort-Liberte, Port-de-Paix, Gonaives, Hinche, Jacmel, Les Cayes, and Jeremie. Granderson says the relations between the mission and the Haitian authorities are correct. He points out that positive cooperation with both the civilian and the military authorities has already brought about the release of several prisoners, the improvement of prison living conditions, and a reduction in the number of prisoners. Granderson shows he has confidence in the mission and its ability to meet its objectives and afford the civilian and military authorities their responsibilities regarding the respect of human rights.

The leader of the international civilian mission explained that a military department command ordered a chief of police not to (?carry out) warrant arrests alone, as has been done in the past. Collins Granderson stated: We told the authorities that their role is to ensure the safety of all citizens in the country, regardless of political affiliation, so as to allow many people to go back home after the threats or reprisals they underwent. Collins Granderson goes on: We point out that the habit of beating people represents a violation of human rights, and it must end.

The chief of the mission, however, expresses his concern as to the information regarding a number of cases of repression throughout the country. He also cited his worry in view of the case of many—in particular, several journalists—who are being persecuted after contacting members of the mission.

Bazin Claims 'True Negotiations' Not Yet Under Way

FL0504162793 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 34.512 5 Apr 93 p 12

[From the "Buzz in the News" column: "At the Latest Council of Ministers"]

[Excerpts] The minister of foreign affairs has reported to the Council of Ministers to inform them of the state of the relations between his ministry and the civilian mission on the issue of identification cards. A compromise should be reached very soon, according to the minister. [passage omitted]

Summarizing the situation, the prime minister explained that true negotiations have not actually begun. If we understand correctly, Mr. Caputo met with many people in many sectors in the country. However, we are not

aware that any agreement has been reached on the main issues, i.e., the agenda, the form of the negotiations, the parties, and a timetable to resolve the crisis.

Organizations Propose Theodore, Emmanuel as Prime Minister

FL0504210093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The people's organizations will not choose anyone who supported the September 1991 coup as a candidate for the post of prime minister. [passage omitted] We will listen to Jacques Saint-Lot, an official of a movement in the people's organizations, who will provide his reactions.

[Begin Jean-Nazaire Tide recording] Here are the names of two people whose candidacies we have accepted for the post of prime minister. We still faithfully renew our attachment to the Washington Agreement. We have appointed....[pauses] We think these two citizens can represent the people's aspirations. They are former Senator Wesner Emmanuel and Rene Theodore. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Instead of Jacques Saint-Lot, it was Jean-Nazaire Tide, one of the representatives of the popular organizations, who presented the two new members [prospective prime ministers] chosen by 60 popular organizations at a meeting on 2 April at the Christopher Hotel. Those organizations held a news conference to present the two new candidates we just mentioned. They are former Sen. Wesner Emmanuel and Rene Theodore. The organizations have promised to work jointly with the next prime minister to rebuild the country when the exiled president chooses the one he prefers.

The organizations that made these choices say this task requires many sacrifices from all sectors in the country. The people's organizations proposed two choices for the next post of prime minister within the scope of a solution to the country's crisis. The 2 April conference state that the ousted president asked the popular sector to choose two candidates or the names of candidates and then send them to him. These two choices show there is no unity within the popular sector even though Jean-Nazaire Tide spoke of the unity of this sector that was at the root of the choices which were made in the morning of 2 April. In the opinion of those who are following the evolution of the people's organizations, what happened this week shows what needs to be done so the concerned sectors can find a solution that is satisfactory to all opposing camps.

In a meeting held by several popular organizations last week, Serge Gilles was also chosen to hold the post of prime minister.

New People's Movement Opposes Foreign Presence

FL0504201693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 2100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] A people's movement called the National Movement Against Hunger [Mouvman Nasyonal Kont Grangou], MNKG, has issued its first 10-point declaration to explain the political situation that the country has been experiencing for the past three years. In the opinion of Jacques Saint-Lot, spokesman for this association, it is the 13 March 1990 (Ertha Pascal Trouillot] government that is primarily responsible for the bad situation in the country because it is the government that first asked foreigners to interfere in Haiti's internal affairs during the December 1990 elections. Saint- Lot noted that the two opposing camps are doing well while the people are starving. In view of such a situation, the MNKG spokesman thinks it is not appropriate to speak of human rights in Haiti.

Jacques Saint-Lot, who does not agree with the presence of foreign observers in the country, has proposed that the international community does not negotiate with either of the two opposing camps.

Officer Attempts To Reassure Jeremie Population

FL0504214493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The Army, in its duties as police, is ready to protect the population who should not feel threatened by motivational singing by soldiers who were exercising. This was a statement made over the weekend by Colonel Jean-Robert Gabriel, spokesman for the Army general staff, when questioned by the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY. The officer was answering questions regarding what people in Jeremie compare to a provocation. On 1 April, several soldiers were chanting words such as we are strong, we have weapons and sticks. When questioned if by doing so, the Jeremie military garrison was obeying any sort of order, the officer answered no. If the population in Jeremie is worried, we will ask the military authorities to give orders so that less confusing chants are used, stated the officer to the HAITIAN PRESS AGENCY.

National Penitentiary Inmates Threaten Hunger Strike

FL0504162893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The prisoners at the National Peritentiary are threatening a hunger strike. In a letter brought to Radio Metropole studio by a relative of one of the prisoners, a group of prisoners in the National Penitentiary is demanding improved living conditions. The group writes in a 3 April letter: We are more than a thousand. We are ill-treated and neglected.

While denouncing the circumstances under which they were arrested, the prisoners protest the fact that they have no appeal before a judge. We are locked away for an unlimited time, from a month to infinity, they write. They also question the role of the minister of justice.

Those prisoners, who wish to meet with the UN representatives in Port-au-Prince, are threatening to stage a hunger strike, followed by a demonstration on 7 or 8 April. We seek only justice for the military in prison, justice for the civilians in prison, they conclude in this letter delivered to the editorial staff of Radio Metropole.

El Salvador

Air Force Commander Comments on Truth Commission Report

PA0304194293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Colonel Hector Lobo, Salvadoran Air Force [FAS] commander, rejected the Truth Commission report because of its bias in favor of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

On the morning of 2 April, the FAS commander rejected the accuracy of the Truth Commission report, which he described as biased. According to the military officer, the report only points out the Army's conduct but does not cover human rights violations perpetrated by the FMLN during the 12-year war.

According to Col. Lobo, despite these differences, the Armed Forces will abide by all presidential resolutions.

[Begin recording] [Lobo] We consider the report to be too predisposed. This peculiarity only serves to demerit the job carried out by the commission members.

[Unidentified reporter] Would the Armed Forces be willing to follow the Truth Commission recommendations?

[Lobo] The Armed Forces has always cooperated with the president concerning these recommendations. Lately we may have given the impression that we do not agree with them. At any rate, yes, we would be willing. [end recording]

The military officer added that the Truth Commission report lacks sufficient verification and added that they did not investigate enough.

[Begin Lobo recording] Several of the cases included in the report have not been adequately investigated. They were included in the report based on mere supposition. With respect to the FMLN, this group's role is included in only 5 percent of the whole document. Maybe if both sides had been investigated in a more balanced manner, it would have been different. It is difficult to say that now. Even the guerrillas are complaining that the document is too biased. [end recording]

Col. Lobo's statements were made during a ceremony transferring four helicopters to the Salvadoran Red Cross as part of the Armed Forces' cooperation with this institution's summer vacation program, known as SOS.

FMLN's Gonzalez on Army Purge, Missiles Destruction

PA0304044193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, rejected on 2 April the proposal submitted by the government to the United Nations. The proposal included a timetable to purge 15 military officers accused by the Ad Hoc Commission. A delegation sent by President Alfredo Cristiani's administration to New York asked UN Secretary General Butros Ghali to allow the authorities to complete the purge of the Salvadoran Armed Forces in June.

Former guerrilla leader Leonel Gonzalez criticized the request and said the government continues its noncompliance with the peace accords.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] We have yet to receive an official reply from the UN secretary general. There are rumors the government will pledge to complete the purge in June. We believe this would be tantamount to continuing its noncompliance with the agreement to conduct a purge. Therefore, we will not feel duty bound to complete destruction of the missiles. We will wait until all this ends.

I can report we have already sent a letter to the UN secretary general. The FMLN has pledged to fulfill its part of the agreement. We believe that—based on the FMLN's letter, the government's proposal, and the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz, comments on the letter—the UN secretary general will be able to implement the necessary mechanisms to exert pressure so the recommendations are implemented.

[Parada] Will the FMLN wait until the United Nations issues an official statement?

[Gonzalez] We do not feel duty bound. We will wait until the UN Observers for El Salvador notifies us the purge has been completed. It does not only involve the departure of the 15 remaining officers. The UN secretary general must also verify the separation of 103 officers and verify that other officers actually retired or were transferred to the foreign service. The secretary general must verify compliance so we may proceed with the destruction of the remaining missiles. [end recording]

Leonel Gonzalez said Copez will soon issue a statement concerning compliance with the peace accords and the recommendations issued by the Truth Commission, which has charged 40 former FMLN military commanders and guerrilla fighters with human rights violations. He said Copaz will begin to discuss the issue at its 2 April meeting.

FMLN Reports Last Weapons Cache Abroad Destroyed

PA0304042593 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] On 1 April, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), destroyed the last cache of weapons it had deposited abroad. These weapons were

held as a reserve in case the peace process failed, according to FMLN leader Ramon Torres.

Torres explained that the destruction of the weapons took place in a mountainous region 10 km from El Paraiso municipality in Honduras.

The cache contained 100 rifles, explosive material, and possessions belonging to the People's Liberation Force, one of the five organization that make up the FMLN.

Torres, who during the war acted as commander in the nation's northern area, said the destruction of weapons held in secret deposits in some Central American nations is the result of the trust his political party has in the peace process.

Ramos Torres, whose legal name is Carlos Carrillo, assured that this is the last weapons cache the FMLN had in the area.

Previously, the FMLN turned over for destruction its surface-to-air missiles deposited in Nicaragua as proof that the peace process is on the road toward the consolidation of democracy.

The FMLN member noted that an unspecified number of missiles is all that remains. These missiles are in the custody of UN Observers for El Salvador and will be destroyed shortly in the country.

The FMLN trusts that the United Nations will continue to verify the peace process. In this regard, Salvador Samayoa [FMLN representative at the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace], said he is waiting for a UN report on the government's proposal regarding the implementation of the Truth Commission's recommendations and the purge of the Armed Forces.

Samayoa—who attended on 1 April a funeral mass for Commanders Nicolas Solorzano Sanchez (Dimas Rodriguez), Virginia Pena Mendoza (Susana) and combatant Maria Sara Chavez Beltran (Paty) who died in combat—said the FMLN had not been informed of the government proposal. Samayoa said the FMLN hopes the agreement will include the purging of the 15 Armed Forces officers and the strict compliance with the Truth Commission's recommendations.

According to the political leader, the above mentioned issues are indispensable for the consolidation of democracy.

In this regard, he also made reference to the amnesty law that was implemented on 31 March and that will benefit the murderers of the Jesuit priests, and those responsible for the San Sebastian massacre. Nevertheless, those responsible for the Zona Rosa murders and for the death of two U.S. advisers in San Miguel will not benefit.

Samayoa said the amnesty should benefit everyone, not just one military group.

According to the reports, the persons involved in the Zona Rosa case, as well as those in the U.S. advisers' murder case, will not benefit from the amnesty because the victims had diplomatic immunity; therefore, they were under international law.

Nevertheless, the FMLN feels the amnesty—hastily approved by the right-wing parties—benefits all those mentioned in the report.

More Soldiers Freed as Result of Amnesty Law

PA0304184193 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] On 1 April, Major Mauricio de Jesus Beltran Granados, accused of ordering the San Sebastian murders, and Jorge Miranda Arevalo, who was sentenced for his participation in the death of Herbert Anaya Zanabria, were released as result of the recently approved general amnesty law.

First to be released was Jorge Miranda Arevalo, a member of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), who had been condemned by the Fifth Criminal Court to 30 years imprisonment for the death of Herbert Anaya Zanabria, coordinator of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission. Mr. Anaya Zanabria was murdered in October, 1987.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Hello, Jorge. How are you? How do you feel at this time?

[Miranda] I feel quite happy, but I would prefer not to make any statements....

[Reporter, interrupting] Why?

[Miranda] Maybe later....

[Reporter, interrupting] Why? Why wait....

[Miranda, interrupting] At the Human Rights Commission.

[Reporter] How do you feel now that you have been released?

[Miranda] I feel quite happy. At this time I cannot express ....

[Reporter, interrupting] Do you feel vindicated by the fact that you obtained your release as result of an amnesty law and not through....

[Miranda, interrupting] At this time I cannot make any statements. [end recording]

Infantry Maj. Mauricio de Jesus Beltran Granados was released from the Santa Ana Prison. Maj. Beltran Granados is a former member of the 5th Infantry Brigade who was charged with ordering the murder of 10 peasants in the community of San Sebastian, San Vicente Department. The massacre, which occurred in September, 1987, was carried out by armed soldiers under the direct command of Maj. Beltran Granados.

[Begin recording] [Beltran Granados] Thank God, I feel very happy because justice finally prevailed. Once again, justice has ratified that I am innocent, and I have obtained my release. I am quite happy about it. My family and all those who supported me are also very content. [end recording]

The military officer called for the release of those who remain in prison charged with political crimes.

[Begin Beltran Granados recording] To all of those who are still in prison, regardless of whether they are from the Armed Forces or the other side, Salvadoran society must show some interest in their fate so that they may also be released. A lot of people are still in jail. They should be released as soon as possible. [end recording]

These two were not the only ones who have benefited by being released as a result of the general amnesty bill. The former National Guards accused of participating in the murder of several U.S. nuns were also set free recently.

Guatemala

URNG Conditions Cease-Fire on Demilitarization

PA0404183293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) on 3 April warned in Mexico that there will not be a cease-fire as long as the government and Army do not take real steps to demilitarize the country, Miguel Angel Sandoval, a member of the URNG Political-Diplomatic Commission, has reported.

The rebel commander informed Noticias de Guatemala News Agency that the foundation should be laid for the preeminence of civilian society. He stated that the cease-fire, concentration of forces, and the demobilization are stages that require economic and social countermeasures for the negotiation.

It was reported that the URNG is willing to begin a cease-fire, but only after the Army is reduced by 50 percent, because it protects soldiers involved in human rights violations.

Sandoval stated that the Civilian Self-Defense Voluntary Committees (CVAC) must be eliminated, adding that as long as there is not a commitment to demilitarization, it is impossible to discuss a cease-fire. He noted that the signing of a global human rights agreement, which includes a Truth Commission, is indispensable.

This commission should begin operating immediately with the participation of a UN representative in order to ensure the investigations of human rights violations committed by Army members are carried out, Sandoval concluded.

Jalapa Magistrates Moved After Receiving Threats

PA0604025093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Judicial Branch authorities have decided to transfer a Jalapa court of justice to Guatemala City as a result of an attack carried out on 2 April on Judge Eulalio Gonzalez and because of threats received by three other Jalapa justices.

Alilio Cifuentes, secretary general of the Judicial Branch Employees Union, said that his organization is opposed to this transfer.

[Begin recording] [Cifuentes] The problem arose because of alleged threats against the three judges of Jalapa's Fifth Court of Justice. We agree that they should be given protection. I believe, though, that the court has to use a more efficient and suitable mechanism. If the judges are transferred, the five other employees of that court will have to move too, and this will seriously affect them. I have to inform you that I have just received a call from Jalapa's Fifth Court personnel. They told me that on 6 April they will not handle any court documents. They have already spoken with the mayor of Jalapa. At 0800 on 6 April they will arrive here to speak with the president of the Supreme Court of Justice to clearly state their position. They are not prepared to move here because of the Jalapa court transfer.

[Unidentified reporter] What should be done to avoid something happening to the judges?

[Cifuentes] As I said before, we totally agree with providing protection for the judges and for any other person whose life may be in danger. But I think this should be done some other way or else we will be setting a precedent. Justices or other officials from other parts of the country may start claiming that they are receiving threats and demanding that their courts be moved to the capital. Then all the appeals courts would be established here. That would be a problem. That is why we are going to urge the president of the Supreme Court to look for mechanisms that would not harm the workers. We are concerned about the safety of the judges, but we are also concerned about safeguarding the guarantees and rights of the workers. [end recording]

* Reportage on 1992 Guerrilla Warfare Activities

* Civilian Victims

93CA0083A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] Statistics show that 88 persons died in 1992 as a result of terrorist activities and 11 percent of the victims were civilians.

Another 311 persons were wounded in such incidents during the same period and 12 percent of them were civilians affected by the events.

Guerrilla actions affecting human lives included various types of armed clashes: ambushes, attacks, harassment, sabotage, holdups, bombings, assaults, robberies, and murders.

The victims of these incidents included six minors who were killed and wounded. The guerrillas also kidnapped two civilians during the same period.

Statistics show that ecology was affected by guerrilla actions. Some 61,200 gallons of petroleum derivatives were spilled by the FAR [Rebel Armed Forces] in the Peten jungle.

Oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, and crude oil were spilled over large areas of the jungle, causing irreversible damage.

The FAR carried out five specific cases of attacks on ecology in 1992. ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] and the EGP [Poor People's Guerrilla Army] did not engage in such actions.

Oil facilities in the northern area of the national territory were also attacked twice by the FAR in 1992, statistics show.

* Army, URNG Clashes

93CA0083B Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 p

[Article by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Guatemala, January 1993—While peace is being discussed in various forums abroad, the armed struggle continues almost daily in the cold Department of Quiche mountains and the Peten plains.

The year 1992 was one of the most active in terms of insurgent activities, according to defense staff statistics released in this capital.

The statistics also reveal that from January to December of 1992, 211 armed clashes occurred between troops of the Guatemalan Army and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), made up of the country's three guerrilla groups and the Communist Party.

Of the three, it was the Rebel Armed Forces, the FAR, that were the most active, engaging in a total of 89 armed clashes, followed by the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, the EGP, with 66, and the Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, with 56.

During the same period, the Army broke up 53 guerrilla camps, most of which, 27, belonged to ORPA, followed by the FAR with 20, and the EGP with six.

The Army also found 63 mail drops, 35 belonging to ORPA, 21 to the FAR, and seven to the EGP. In addition, 47 mines were set off, 21 by ORPA, 20 by the EGP, and six by the FAR. Finally, special Army sapper units deactivated 54 mines.

Of these, 33 had been laid by the EGP, 27 by ORPA, and four by the FAR, according to the statistics released in this capital.

* EGP Most Active

93CA0083C Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 24 Jan 93 p 5

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, the URNG, had a higher level of action in 1992 than in 1991, statistics show.

For example, between January and December 1992, its units engaged in 232 incidents of harassment of Army troops.

It was the EGP that marked up the highest total with 158 such actions, followed by the FAR with 54, and ORPA with 48. There were also 22 ambushes, 11 by ORPA, followed by the EGP with eight, and the FAR with three. Direct attacks on the Army during the same period totaled eight, seven by the EGP and one by the FAR. ORPA conducted no such attacks.

In terms of propaganda, the URNG engaged in 67 armed actions, ORPA 48, the FAR 14, and the EGP five.

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister on Release of U.S. Aid

PA0304132193 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2112 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo in Paris by an unidentified reporter in Managua on 2 April—live or recorded; monitored in progress]

[Text] [Lacayo] ...today the people of Nicaragua have won a victory. We want the people to know they must feel proud that our democracy, the leadership of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, has made it possible, on the eve of Holy Week, for us to receive the backing of the international community for the peace process, the pacification process, the disarmament process, the reconciliation process, and the process to rebuild our economy that we are conducting in Nicaragua under Mrs. Chamorro's leadership.

This is a memorable day. We were able to get the United States to release $50 million in aid. We have received the support of the 17 countries that met here. We must also note the recent support Spain gave Nicaragua, and the support from the Swedes, Norwegians, (?Mexicans), Canadians, Japanese, and Dutch, in sum, all the countries gathered here in Paris. The biggest achievement for Nicaragua is that we came in peace.

[Reporter] Mr. Lacayo, you said 17 countries backed Nicaragua's economic, political, democratic program. What does that support consist of?

[Lacayo] It consists of whatever is necessary so that Nicaragua can consolidate its democracy and reincorporate the former rebels into productive activities, and so our economic and reactivation program can succeed. It consists of whatever is necessary so we can soon generate the jobs our people rightfully demand. It consists of whatever is necessary to allow us to overcome our poverty and improve our health and education services despite the country's difficult situation, and of anything that may be necessary to enjoy democracy and economic progress.

[Reporter] Are the 17 countries that are going to help our country giving you any figures on the aid they will give the Nicaraguan Government?

[Lacayo] The World Bank verified that the international community is committed to give Nicaragua approximately $700 million in 1993. This aid is earmarked to allow the government to continue its programs.

[Reporter] Can we describe this as a triumph of Mrs. Chamorro's hope, since she always said she was confident the aid would come? Is this a victory for your tenacity and hope that the aid would be released? Can this regarded as a triumph of democracy over those who are opposed to the national reconciliation program?

[Lacayo] It is the triumph of the people. It is a triumph of Mrs. Chamorro, who with her tenacity, confidence, and faith has succeeding in getting the international community to realize the people of Nicaragua need this support, because we must consolidate democracy, peace, and development. This is what we are striving to achieve today. It is a triumph for all that we all must celebrate.

[Reporter] Was any time frame fixed for these countries to start delivering this aid to the people and government of Nicaragua?

[Lacayo] The Foreign Cooperation Ministry, in strict coordination with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the IMF, are in fact at this moment, working on the details that must be completed for this support to be delivered in accordance with our country's needs.

It is important to call on the political sectors that recently rejected the dialogue, and the representatives of the business sector who did not have our guidance, to join the government's efforts build a new Nicaragua in which everyone works together to get our country ahead.

[Reporter] Minister Lacayo, will you travel to Spain in the next few days or the next few hours on an official trip? I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to ask you about this trip to Spain.

[Lacayo] I will be in Madrid on 5 and 6 April to complete the work we have been carrying out here in Paris. We will sign an agreement for $84 million worth of support from the Spanish Government for the Nicaraguan people to contribute to the international community's help to Nicaragua.

Spain has supported Nicaragua in good and bad times. It has always supported our people and I am very honored to represent, on 5 and 6 April, the Nicaraguan people there in Madrid.

I repeat, it is important that we all join efforts, as of today, particularly politicians and businessmen—both large and small—so that we attain this support so that together, I repeat, we make the effort to get our country ahead.

We, government representatives, with the ministers, who represent the people, make this request here in Paris. It is important that the other sectors of our society help too, so that together.... [20-second break in reception]

[Reporter; in progress] ...the government headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. What kind of call would you make on those sectors that are still skeptical and that do not want to participate in the National Dialogue or support these measures aimed at helping the most needy sectors of Nicaraguan society?

[Lacayo] I definitely hope that we may work together for the future that lies ahead, that together we may work for something that the international community considers prosperity, that this prosperity will continue as far as the best [words indistinct] of Nicaragua, and that those of us who really love Nicaragua will work together hand in hand. As President Chamorro and Cardinal Obando say, we take advantage of this opportunity to build this national unity and, once and for all, leave all of Nicaragua's difficulties behind.

Deputy Presidency Minister Comments

PA0504223493 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Fidelina Suarez M.]

[Text] Deputy Presidency Minister Jose Adan Guerra made a statement on 2 April after learning the U.S. aid had been released. He said the aid is not subject to conditions.

Guerra said: "We have no information that the latest U.S. aid is subject to conditions." He said Nicaragua, the United States, and other friendly countries have a common agenda for democracy and they are working on it.

Several issues, including a deadline for Army Commander General Humberto Ortega's departure and a solution to the land ownership problem, have been mentioned as conditions established by the United States before the aid was released.

The deputy presidency minister was asked: What guarantee will Nicaraguans have that the money will reach the most needy sectors? Guerra said the government is working precisely on this.

"The social action minister has attended the consultative group meetings, and the increasing support given to the government proves there is more and more confidence in the Nicaraguan Government's ability to manage the funds," he said.

Congressman Cass Ballenger recently visited the country and said one of the conditions to release the aid was to settle the seizure of assets owned by U.S. citizens.

Referring to this, the deputy presidency minister said the government has stepped up the return of U.S. citizens' assets.

UNO Leaders Praise Disbursement

PA0504222093 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Alvaro Cruz Rojas]

[Text] Leaders of the National Opposition Union, UNO, applauded the disbursement of $54 million in U.S. aid to our country after it was withheld for six months as a result of objections presented by U.S. congressmen.

Wilfredo Navarro, UNO coordinator and Liberal leader, said the disbursement "will benefit Nicaragua," adding that "it will be positive as long as it is used to alleviate the needs of the Nicaraguan people."

Navarro said "the aid is not a blank check." He noted that "the aid has conditions, mainly to promote the democratic process, respect for human rights, justice, and to resolve the property problem."

National Action Party leader Duilio Baltodano praised the release of the aid, but noted that it will only be a "temporary solution."

Baltodano said national dialogue could be the real solution to the nation's problems. "It is the only stable, permanent, and sustained solution," he noted, stressing that the aid "is only a three-month solution."

Christian Democratic Union leader Luis Humberto Guzman showed moderate optimism for the disbursement. In a statement to a local radio station, he said the aid will lessen the liquidity problem.

Guzman expressed concern because, according to him, $54 million only represent funds for two weeks worth of imports.

The $54 million that were included in the 1992 U.S. budget were withheld for over six months following objections from U.S. Republican congressmen who criticized the apparent alliance between the government headed by Violeta Chamorro and the Sandinists.

Two Cubans Attempt To Obtain Forged Passports

PA0604034193 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by Armando Quintero M.]

[Text] Leon—Regional Attorney General Dr. Denis Rueda Mendoza presented written charges against two Cubans who obtained a false birth certificate and who tried to obtain official Nicaraguan citizenship documents with false witnesses at the Second Civil District Court.

This may be one of the ways in which foreigners, who are called internationalists by the people, obtain Nicaraguan passports with forged citizenship documents.

Dr. Rueda identified the Cubans as Fernando Morales Sierra and Alicia Rodriguez Martinez. The official presented criminal charges against them at the First Criminal District Court, headed by Dr. Douglas Toruno Tellez. The charges include false or forged identity, civil status, public documents, testimony, witnesses, and other crimes found in the course of the investigations.

To request a legal Nicaraguan birth certificate, each Cuban presented two false witnesses at the civil district court. The false witnesses declared that the Cubans had been born in the country. Clemencia Bermudez and Fermin Hernandez Loaisiga were the witnesses presented by Morales Sierra and Alvaro Guevara Orozco and Fermin Hernandez Loaisiga were the witnesses for Mrs. Rodriguez.

According to the document presented by the regional attorney general, these witnesses committed perjury and broke Article 353-Pn of the law. The mock witnesses committed perjury because they testified falsely in a civil case.

Cubans Fernando Morales Sierra and Alicia Rodriguez Martinez appeared before the Civil Registry Office and in a false and fraudulent manner requested and obtained a negative birth certificate [certificado negativo de nacimiento]. Dr. Rueda stated that he does not know the Civil Registry procedures to issue this type of document.

With the document, the Cubans went to the Second Civil District Court to request their official birth certificates. They presented their witnesses who, under oath, testified that they knew for a fact that the petitioners had been born in Nicaragua. The false witnesses even gave the names of the Cubans alleged parents who, of course, do not exist.

Although the charges were presented on 1 April, the events took place during the latter part of January 1993. Furthermore, the attorney general's charges do not give information about the Cubans' current whereabouts, the way their lies and the witnesses' perjury was discovered, or the name of their lawyers.

The case will have to wait until after Holy Week to be processed because the Judicial Branch went on vacation on 2 April.

Panama

Ford Questions PRD Attitude in Favor of Amnesty

PA0404172693 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Apr 93 p 2A

[Article by Aristides Cajar Paez]

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford on 3 April questioned harshly the attitudes by members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) to promote the approval of the amnesty draft bill.

"They are now talking about an amnesty, but they want to use violence in the Assembly to achieve it," Ford stated, referring to the incidents caused by PRD supporters in the Legislative Assembly the week of 28 March.

Ford made these statements on 3 April at a gathering of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, of which he is a member, in the community of Nueva Riviera de Pedregal.

"If they think they will release the Dignity Battalion on the streets and they will beat us, they are dead wrong," Ford stated. He added: "This country will be governed by the man or woman the people want, not by who the PRD wants."

Ford asserted: "If this government has to impose controls on those who abuse democracy, we will do so," although he recalled that democracy "is not exercising brute force, but exercising the force of reason."

Among those present at the political gathering were Legislator Arturo Vallarino; Jaime Ford Lara, Colon Free Zone director; National lottery Director Luis Guillermo Casco Arias; and Carlos Pinto Arosemena, National Sports Institute (Inde) director.

The vice president referred to the possibility of "strengthening" the government alliance, adding that he felt "proud of the government political alliance; every government loses support, every government pays the price of misunderstanding; but some were elected to be in the government and they now brag about being in the opposition."

Regarding the separation of the Christian Democratic Party from the government alliance, Ford said "the people did not vote for Endara, Arias, and Ford to be in the opposition; the people risked their lives on the streets, in the polls, and later guarded the tally sheets so that we govern this country and not talk nonsense from the opposition."

Ford explained that his party "respects the government alliance. We want the alliance to continue, but we want to enhance it with other new parties, parties that believe in us so we can bring to the Panamanian people the peace, stability, and decency they deserve."

Ford also referred to the construction of a hospital in San Miguelito and announced that the works will begin within a month. He concluded by downplaying the statements of those who say this work will not be carried out.

Civic Renewal Party To Support March Against Amnesty

PA0504211293 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The Civic Renewal Party has reiterated its opposition to amnesty. A party communique states that for that reason it will support the 14 April march organized by the group of relatives of people whose murders have gone unpunished. The party also announced its first activity to be held on 6 April from noon to 1300, when it will sound horns to show support for real justice.

The Civic Renewal Party demands that institutions charged with investigating crimes and administering justice comply with their constitutional and legal obligations. It also warns that it will not allow another outrage to be committed against the Panamanian people as a result of petty political commitments made between the government and the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

[Begin Party President Tomas Herrera recording] We unanimously believe it is not possible to grant amnesty to those who did not hesitate to torture, persecute, assassinate, depredate the national treasury for their own benefit, curtail freedom, and establish and maintain a shameful dictatorship. Nor should amnesty be granted to people who acted as accomplices and accessories to those individuals. That would be a mockery of Panamanians' desire for justice, and it would send the wrong message to our youths.

We have also said that a majority of citizens feel justice has already been mocked as many members of the narco-dictatorship who should have been brought to trial evaded justice, fled, and took asylum, aided and abetted by members of this government.

We have also said that the demand for amnesty based on the allegation of political crimes is a fallacy, because those people are just politicians who committed crimes, and also because political crimes are acknowledged in the case of idealists who struggle for freedom and democracy. The politicians in this case fought to maintain the yoke of oppression on Panama and to sustain the dictatorship. Furthermore, this matter of amnesty is not a national problem. [end recording]

Government, Colombia Seek Border Development Agreement

PA0404172793 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Apr 93 p 8D

[Report by Juan Diaz]

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio said on 3 April in Panama City that Panama and Colombia will begin efforts to develop their common border. The region is covered by thick jungles and inhabited by illegal aliens, drug traffickers, and gold prospectors.

The minister made the announcement during the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the joint Panamanian-Colombian Neighbor Relations Commission [Comision de Vecindad Colombo-Panamena]. She pointed out that it is essential for the two countries to set the foundations needed to allow the development of the natural resources in the region, while protecting its ecological abundance.

Rubio underscored the need to promote more commercial and cultural trade between the two countries, and give greater support to the integration process.

Meanwhile, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said the two countries share an interest in integrating the Darien area into their development process by constructing a highway between Yavisa and Palo de las Letras, thus joining them by land.

Linares, however, stressed that the project would have to be implemented in consideration of the health risks that the free flow of goods through the area implies.

The Panamanian diplomat added that several binational subcommittees were created during this first meeting to examine the issues of economic development, legal cooperation, migration, energy, transport, communications, education, and culture.

A package of communication projects was also discussed during the meeting, including the construction of a port and ferry to join the two countries.

Another proposal discussed was an amnesty bill to allow at least 12,000 illegal Colombian immigrants living in Panama to put their papers in order, as long as they can prove they have been in the country for more than three years.

Public Force Destroys Coca Plantations in Darien

PA0504202093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 2A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Members of the Public Force destroyed approximately 60 hectares of coca leaf plantations that were discovered in February during the "Free Frontier" operation in Darien Province.

A press release from the Presidency of the Republic states that the coca plantations were destroyed as part of the "Burn The Drugs" [Candela A La Droga] operation carried out on 3 and 4 April in that province.

According to the communique, Major Dario Arrue headed the operation and said it was "successful and simple" as the destruction of the plantations was fulfilled.

The plantations were destroyed with support from the U.S. State Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), which provided the special airplanes and chemicals needed to fumigate the area. The note points out that the personnel who carried out the operation were all Panamanian.

The destroyed coca leaf plantations were located on the outskirts of Tacarcuna Hill on Panama's border with Colombia.

The authorities said they found no cocaine-processing laboratories during the operation, only small huts called "kitchens" used to gather the harvested leaves.

The Presidency communique states that the "Burn The Drugs" operation guarantees the total destruction of the coca plantations that had been initially burned by the mission that went to Darien to clear the area of guerrillas and illegal aliens and to investigate the whereabouts of three missionaries allegedly kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas.

Explosive Device Thrown at Legislator's Home; No Victims

PA0504213493 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p A1

[Article by Jorge Calvo]

[Text] At approximately 2130 on 4 April an explosive device was hurled at the residence of Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Legislator Alfredo Ehlers. No one was injured, Ehlers said.

The attack, claimed by the alleged subversive group Democratic Front for the Liberation of Panama [Frente Democratico de Liberacion de Panama], was described by PDC Legislator Ehlers as an act of intimidation against him, "given the situation prevailing in the country."

Ehlers lives on 10th Street, between Roosevelt Avenue and Gorgas Boulevard, in Colon Province. The explosive device, apparently a fragmentation grenade, fell about 15 meters from the home of the opposition legislator. According to witnesses, the grenade was thrown from a burgundy colored vehicle that quickly fled following the attack.

The PDC legislator said that no other politician lives on that street and, therefore, "I presume the attack was aimed at me." He added that "if that is the case, we are living under a state of terror and corrective measures must be taken." Alfredo Ehlers regretted such attacks take place "when we live in a democracy."

The National Police in Colon is investigating the foiled attack on the Ehlers residence, and is following the clues given by witnesses.

This attack has taken place just four days after the arrest of former Major Carlos Saldana, the alleged leader of the Torrijist National Vindication Movement (MTRN).

Argentina

Foreign Ministry To Protest UK Decision To Extend Maritime Zone

PY0504191493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1433 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA)—While Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella this morning departed for Bolivia to participate in the meeting of foreign ministers of the Rio Group, his mind was on the contents of a protest that the Argentine Government will file with the United Kingdom over its unilateral decision to extend from 12 to 200 miles the maritime control zone around the South Georgia Islands.

Di Tella will attend a meeting in the city of Santa Cruz de Sierra with 12 other foreign ministers members of the Rio Group. They will prepare the 1993 agenda for the meetings that will be held in Copenhagen between 20 and 24 April with representatives of the EEC.

The Argentine foreign minister will also take the opportunity to meet in Santa Cruz with his counterparts from Paraguay, Alexis Frutos Vaesken, and Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, to analyze subjects connected with the Common Market of the South.

Without any doubt, what concerns Di Tella most at the moment is the unilateral decision by the United Kingdom to extend from 12 to 200 miles the maritime control area around the South Georgia Islands. This was learned here nearly a week ago, after Di Tella returned from London.

Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, informed Di Tella on 30 March of the British decision. Di Tella informed President Menem two days later. For this reason a diplomatic reply is expected at any moment from the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

It was learned that the British decision sought to "update its claim" to the South Georgia Islands before international forums, despite the British official version which cites the need to prevent fishing depredation by ships from Russia and other countries in the zone.

Thus, a new element has been added to bilateral relations following negotiations over fishing and oil exploration, although the consequences of this decision have political rather than economic aims.

The extension to 200 miles will be made official through a note that the British Government will release in London and which will later be presented at the United Nations in an attempt to legitimize British claims to the islands, which are southeast of the Malvinas Islands.

Once the British Government makes its claims official, the Argentine Foreign Ministry will study its formal complaint that it will present before the concerned organizations—like the letters of protest it sent to oil companies that are prospecting in the Malvinas Islands area.

Argentine Ambassador in London Mario Campora said that the Argentine Foreign Ministry must design the measures to be presented before the United Kingdom following "political decisions by the president and the vindication of our rights."

"Argentina follows a traditional policy which is the vindication of the South Atlantic Islands. It is a firm historical policy that the government is seriously implementing," Ambassador Campora said.

He added that Argentina must mark "an integrating presence in the area" and reiterated his conviction that the Malvinas Islands "have no other destiny than to integrate with our country because there are no unchangeable situations in the world."

Menem, Defense Minister Commemorate Falklands Anniversary

PY0304152793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2148 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem today expressed the "patriotic acknowledgement" of the country for the soldiers who participated in the Malvinas War and that the decision to recover the archipelago through diplomatic means is "alive."

Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said that after the "harsh blow" of the military defeat by the United Kingdom "we realized that the legitimate Argentine aspirations cannot be eradicated by an adverse situation."

Menem and Gonzalez presided over a ceremony this afternoon at the 1st Patricios Regiment unit, during which they commemorated the 11th anniversary of the disembarkation of Argentine troops in the Malvinas Islands on April 2, 1982.

Joint Chief of Staff General Mario Candido Diaz and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martin Balza, Navy Chief Admiral Jorge Ferrer, and Air Force Chief Brigadier General Jose Julia also attended the ceremony that began at 1730. General Leopoldo Galtieri, Admiral Isaac Anaya, and General Mario Benjamin Menendez, all retired, also attended the ceremony.

President Menem first reviewed a group of Malvinas veterans and, after singing the national anthem, military bishop Monsignor Norberto Martina said a prayer in memory of those who died in the war.

The president's aide-de-camp then read a message from the chief of state in which he transmitted his "acknowledgement of the military personnel and civilians who with a strong patriotic spirit fought on land, sea, and air to recover part of our national territory."

"Although time has partially enlarged and erased the images of the conflict, as we keep alive the decision to reinstate the Malvinas Islands to our national territory, we are also making similar permanent efforts through other means, diplomatic means, to achieve it," he said.

He said that "this is the symbol of our total and absolute conviction to preserve peace in the region and world."

Defense Minister Gonzalez then spoke and said he "recognizes the sacrifice of the men who have given their lives for the motherland as well as those who take risks and maintain our glories, which is a permanent act of justice that must always be expressed.

Gonzalez said that the "enthusiasm" felt at the beginning of the war "was legitimate in the spirit of all Argentines because it was the expression of the wish instilled in us by our seniors for more than 160 years."

"However, this happiness was darkened by a not-desired war that did not last long, and whose true dimension almost was not perceived by the people."

After stating that diplomatic means will be used to recover the southern archipelago, Gonzalez said that "this is the policy followed by Argentina in all international forums, demonstrating that the recovery of our islands, which are so far away in terms of distance but so near to our hearts, is a fair aspiration."

The defense minister said that "the use of military force is the last possibility a country must resort to when, within an escalation of a crisis, the use of all diplomatic and economic means have failed to solve a conflict."

Gonzalez also spoke a little about the reorganization of the Armed Forces, a concept he believes "is aimed at making maximum use of the existing means and resources by prioritizing the excellence of our men, the most valuable asset we have."

Institute Expresses Concern Over Negotiations With UK

PY0504150093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1448 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, Apr 4 (NA)—The Malvinas Islands Institute has stated that the government should "avoid a situation where negotiations with the United Kingdom, under the sovereignty umbrella, end by satisfying the obvious British interest in concessions for the island's fishing and hydrocarbon resources."

The institute released a communique signed by its president, Rodolfo Follari, and vice president Gabriel Anselmo on the anniversary of the temporary recovery of the southern archipelago.

The communique states: "The United Kingdom continues to usurp our islands and surrounding maritime spaces. The negotiations have so far consolidated British interests without allowing Argentina to progress on the real issue, which is the acknowledgement of Argentine sovereignty."

UCR Senator Proposes Regular Flights to Falklands

PY0504155293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1449 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA)—UCR [Radical Civic Union] Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen has submitted a draft bill in which he proposes to the executive branch the establishment of a regular air service with the Malvinas Islands, on the Comodoro-Rivadavia-Puerto Argentino route.

The Chubut senator calls for the re-establishment of the service that operated until the outbreak of the Malvinas War in 1982.

Solari Yrigoyen said: "A regular air service between the Malvinas Islands and Montevideo by the Uruguayan company Air Atlantic has been recently announced, and another service has been confirmed to Punta Arenas (Chile), through DAP [expansion unknown] Airways."

"For the economic development of the islands and from the historical and political points of view, the establishment of air services between our Malvinas Islands and the continent is an important matter which Argentina cannot overlook."

Solari Yrigoyen pointed out that cultural exchange with the Malvinas Islands "will surely provide the islanders with a real image of the Argentine lifestyle."

New Defense Minister Takes Oath of Office 5 Apr

PY0604031993 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 April (NA)—Oscar Camilion, a member of the Integration and Development Movement, this afternoon took the oath of office as the new defense minister. He replaces Antonio Erman Gonzalez, who resigned to run as first deputy candidate for the Justicialist Party in the Federal Capital.

Camilion, who was a UN commissioner in Cyprus, was installed today by President Carlos Menem during a ceremony held at the White Room of the Government House.

Camilion will install his close aides Vicente Gonzalo Massot as military affairs secretary and Guillermo Federico Etchchoury as planning secretary at the Defense Ministry tomorrow at 1000. He will also install new under secretaries, to include Horacio Rodriguez Larreta, who was president of the Racing Club of Avellaneda between 1977 and 1978.

Menem gave an impromptu speech during the installation of Camilion, who is the fourth defense minister in

Menem's administration. He praised Camilion's performance and assured him that "he will have his full support" to discharge his duties. [passage omitted]

To Analyze Military Justice Reform Bill

PY0604020193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2207 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Apr (NA)—One of the first projects that Oscar Camilion must analyze as defense minister will be military justice reform, which, if approved by Congress, will make it optional—and not mandatory, as it is now—for military cases to be revised by a federal civilian court of appeals.

The bill proposes extending the jurisdiction of the military courts curtailed by the reforms approved in 1984 by Law No. 23,049.

General Carlos Cerda worked for six months on this bill, which has been approved by the Armed Forces, and Camilion must now decide whether he will send it to Congress for approval.

The bill incorporates the possibility of appealing a sentence within the military court system.

For example, if a military officer who is judged by a military court [Consejo de Guerra] is not satisfied he may appeal the decision before the Armed Forces Supreme Council which, in this case, will act as a court of appeals.

The current military law limits the possibility of appeals for the Armed Forces members.

Once the defendant runs out of appeals within the military court structure, the draft bill allows him to resort to the Court of Cassation with the consent of the two parties.

After going through the Court of Cassation, like in any other trial, it is always possible to appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice.

Another change is the creation of the post of a sponsoring judge [vocal letrado preopinante], a post inspired in Spanish military justice.

The sponsoring judge will be charged with presenting the facts of the case being heard to allow the other court members to better analyze these facts.

Defendants may also be officially represented by civilian attorneys in their defense.

CGT Criticizes Government Economic Policy

PY0204194293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2108 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The CGT [General Confederation of Labor] today warned the government that current stability is based on "a house of cards" and added that "Argentina is not on the right path." The CGT thus openly criticized the economic policy.

The CGT announces its position in a critical document released, coincidentally with the assumption of metal worker leader Naldo Brunelli as new CGT secretary general.

The document states that there are "almost 3 million unemployed or underemployed people. Thousands of companies have either closed or are about to go bankrupt, thus increasing risk of higher unemployment."

The document adds: "The dramatic statement that more than one third of the Argentine population, 12 million citizens, live under extremely poor conditions clearly tells us that we are on the wrong path."

The document continues: "Perhaps we need to be on a new path so that production development and industrial expansion can serve to consolidate the stability we have achieved but which is based on a house of cards."

The CGT states that the workers "feel we can build the Argentina we want," adding that "we must begin by promoting national workmanship."

The CGT warns in its document that this policy "will not be achieved without the organized participation of all social sectors," and that "above all, its implementation will be impossible without the workers' participation."

Finally, the CGT asks the government "to promote a vigorous national policy and a progressive agricultural sector, with salaries and incomes to guarantee dignified living standards as an imperative basis for social justice."

The CGT also calls for "extracting from poverty and abandonment" retired personnel, and concludes by stating that the workers have helped stability "by postponing" many demands.

Government Deregulates Health Care System

PY0204212393 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The government deregulated the health care system yesterday in spite of strong opposition from the General Labour Confederation (CGT) [General Confederation of Labor] which has threatened to respond with forceful measures.

The new system will allow workers to choose their health care plan from among the various state-run plans and will leave the government in control of the health care funds.

Three types of medical attention will be established: a basic plan requiring the minimum contribution, an integrated plan which will cost more, and a pensioners plan. New systems will be set up for collecting contributions

and selecting health care plans and a new fund management system will be established.

Health and Social Action Minister Julio Cesar Araoz, who will be replaced in his post by the end of the month, announced the deregulation in a long-winded public address carried on the government's radio and television network.

The decree gone into effect sets a 90-day period to coordinate the health care plans and the National Social Security Administration to put the regulations into effect. Araoz said that this period will also allow for changes "to give the system sufficient flexibility to permit a smooth transition without detriment to health care plan users."

After yesterday's Cabinet meeting the minister rebuffed CGT opposition to the reform and said that "the workers will be in agreement" with the deregulation. Along with Araoz's address, the government released the decrees regulating the health care plan law (23.660) and national health insurance law (23.661).

Deregulation allows workers to elect a health care plan from among all the state-run plans currently operating, but restricts them to one change per year. The health care plans may accept a limited number of new clients, equal to 20 percent of their current client lists. The new regulations do not establish basic universal coverage.

The system will allow the self-employed to join a health care plan, paying the appropriate contributions, while the destitute will be covered by the National Health Insurance services. Health care plan beneficiaries can be attended in public hospitals, with the plan responsible to pay for the care provided.

Pensioners will also be allowed to choose between health care plans.

Menem Rejects Labor Group's Strike Threats

PY0304165593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1129 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)—President Carlos Menem has virtually held the labor movement responsible for creating the appropriate atmosphere for the 1976 military coup, and he defied it to carry out "one or 1,000 strikes," warning that a possible measure of force organized by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] "will not make us lose everything we have achieved until now."

Thus the president responded to a threat by the brand new CGT Secretary General Naldo Brunelli, who admitted the possibility of staging a new strike against the government economic policy.

The president rejected the CGT leader's statements, saying that there are 3 million unemployed workers in the country, which he called "capricious figures, totally false, that have nothing to do with reality."

"We already know the CGT attitude—not just the present attitude, but also past attitudes—so we will not question anything. I do not know what Brunelli means by taking action, nor do I know how he will do it," Menem said.

"Anyway, there has never been so much freedom in the country, so he has all the means open to him in order to carry out the actions he thinks are convenient, within the law." Menem urged the people to "recall what happened in 1975, when attitudes similar to those being expressed were also suggested."

"They were different times, because in those days there was a deep crisis, there was no stability, there were many problems, and the consequence of that was March 1976," he said in reference to the labor union demands and their influence on the overthrow of President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

Menem said that "these attitudes are no longer possible," although he added that "if they want to carry out a strike, they may hold one or 1,000, but the government is not willing to lose everything it has accomplished to end corruption."

He also said that "if Brunelli is saying things in a challenging tone, we accept the challenge; there is no problem and go on with what you want to do." Menem doubts "whether many of those who now issue threats have lived through the situation endured by many who were faithful to Isabel Peron" in reference to the Justicialist leaders who were arrested following the military coup.

When asked what would happen the day after a 36-hour strike, Menem answered "nothing" and added that "those who do not work will simply not collect their pay."

"If Mr. Brunelli and his aides make public their recipe to which they confusingly are referring to, let them make it public. If they have a different model of a country, let them suggest it publicly," Menem said. But he warned that "if the model they suggest is the same one we inherited in 1989, we will not at all consider their suggestion."

Former Government Official Denies Sale of Submarines

PY0604033093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1449 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Apr (NA)—Karim Yoma, former Foreign Ministry special affairs under secretary, today denied participating in a frustrated sale of six submarines to Taiwan in 1989. He stated that this issue "was surely" on the agenda of former Vice Foreign Minister Mario Campora, the current ambassador to Great Britain.

Yoma admitted, however, that at that time he proposed the creation of a special commission to deal with "the sales of (war) materiel abroad."

He said that he made this proposal "to prevent travelling salesmen from invoking the name of the Republic abroad in order to sell any type of product."

Yoma thus denied a press report yesterday that linked him to a thwarted sale of six submarines to Taiwan when he served in the Foreign Ministry.

According to the morning newspaper CLARIN, in August 1989 Yoma reportedly concentrated on an operation involving "over $1.2 billion," in which two retired military personnel apparently acted as middlemen.

A $64 million to $127 million sale by the "official commission" apparently created controversy between Yoma and the military. This situation resulted in a "change," and Alberto Kohan, the former secretary general of the presidency, was designated as coordinator.

The newpaper reported that the operation was eventually suspended.

In remarks to a radio station, Yoma said that this report is "another irresponsible accusation." He said they could have denounced this alleged case in due time, that is, three or four years ago."

Yoma ironcially said: "They cannot possibly come now in an election year and charge me with selling atomic bombs or the Condor project, or with managing all our treaties with Spain and Italy 'at will,' or with selling submarines, the Patagonia region, or with having given away the Malvinas Islands."

Former President Raul Alfonsin recently charged Yoma with requesting alleged "tips" from Spanish businessmen during the cooperation agreements reached with this country.

Yoma made it clear that he was "just a Foreign Ministry diplomatic expert." He added: "They are making it look, however, like I was the chief of state, and that during that brief period of 11 months I was actually running the country."

He denied "having been involved in arms negotiations with a country like Taiwan, responsibilities that went beyond my duties."

He said: "it was up to Campora to deal with this issue."

Yoma said that journalists should be legally limited because "they somewhat act as the fifth column in the country."

He said: "Laws should restrict their tasks a little more."

He concluded by stating that he "cannot go around every day" denying "all the outrages that are published, because he is "a businessman who employs 1,500 workers," to whom he has to pay "their biweekly pay."

26 Percent in Poll Rate Menem's Administration 'Good'

PY0204212593 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 2 Apr 93 p 13

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (NA)—The administration of President Carlos Menem is considered good by only 26.7 percent of the population while 37.1 percent regard it as "fair" and 33.7 percent as "poor," according to a survey conducted by Carlos Fara y Asociados polling agency. The survey showed 64 percent of respondents believe economic stability could be at risk if Menem is not re-elected to office in 1995, 20 percent say stability is here to stay, and 16 percent would not answer the question. As for Cabinet members, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's approval rating stood at 38.5 percent, Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz's at 33.1 percent and outgoing Health Minister Julio Cesar Araoz's at 29.4 percent. The least popular were Justice Minister Jorge Mairoano and Labour Minister Enrique Rodriguez.

Admirals Council Files Slander Suit Against SOMOS Magazine

PY0204215793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1443 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Apr (TELAM)—The 23 Argentine active-duty admirals have filed a lawsuit for "slander" against the editors of the magazine SOMOS as a result of reports suggesting they allegedly were collecting "unregistered" [negro] bonuses.

SOMOS published an article in its 8 March issue on the Armed Forces' salary situation, saying that generals, brigadiers, and admirals were receiving "bonuses."

This publication created a commotion within the Armed Forces. The Army, Navy, and Air Force immediately denied the report, announced the filing of lawsuits, and demanded a retraction.

On 16 March, Lieutenant General Mario Candido Diaz, chief of the Joint Staff, filed a lawsuit against the magazine. The Air Force followed suit. Its commander, Jose Julia, filed a criminal lawsuit against those responsible for the magazine SOMOS in Federal Court No. 2, headed by acting Judge Maria Servia de Cubria, who was sitting in for Dr. Ricardo Wechsler, who was promoted to prosecutor at the Court of Cassation.

The Admirals Council presided over by Navy chief Jorge Ferrer yesterday analyzed the matter again and issued the following official communique:

"1. The Navy categorically denies the content of the article in question (the SOMOS report).
"2. The council decided to file a lawsuit against the magazine SOMOS and the article's author for slander on behalf of all active-duty admirals.

"3. On 1 April, a lawsuit was filed at the federal Criminal and Commercial Court No. 2, Fifth Secretariat, attorney Fernando Goldaracena acting for the plaintiff."

Proposed Radioactive Dump in Salinas Grandes Challenged

PY0504155093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0133 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)—Justicialist Party Senator Alicia Saadi has asked the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) to confirm if it has considered installing a radioactive waste dump in the Argentine salt flats basin which will reportedly affect Catamarca, La Rioja, Cordoba, and Santiago del Estero.

In her request to the Senate, the senator for Catamarca asked the CNEA to also report if it researched the "possibility of clandestine radioactive waste contamination or naturally occurring contamination in the zone of Antofagasta de la Sierra."

The senator bases her request on a report by the National Foundation in Defense of the Environment, which states that the CNEA is reportedly considering the construction of a radioactive waste dump in the region of Salinas Grandes.

This region encompasses northern Cordoba, the southern part of Santiago del Estero and Catamarca, and the southwestern part of La Rioja.

Two Company Managers Receive Parcel Bombs in Cordoba

PY0504194293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 5 Apr (TELAM)—A Brazilian manager from the Autolatina car making consortium—who is staying at the Panorama Hotel of this city—and another manager from the Transax company, each received on 3 April a bomb—to scare them—and pamphlets of the People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP).

This was confirmed today to TELAM by Federal Judge Gustavo Becerra Ferrer who was appointed to hear the case.

The bombs were delivered through the Encotel [National Post Office and Telegraph Service] parcel post service. One was sent to the Transax company offices, on the road to San Antonio on the outskirts of Cordoba, while the Brazilian businessman Texeira da Pinto received the parcel in his room, where he proceeded to open it. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Returns From European Tour

PY0504140693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1646 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] La Paz, 4 Apr (EFE)—Returning to La Paz at 1029 local time (1429 GMT) today, 4 April, after a nine-day absence, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said his visit to Germany and Switzerland was very successful.

Paz Zamora said that Germany and Switzerland have promised aid during 1993 amounting to $120 million for programs to provide potable water, basic sanitation, health, ecology, and others.

The Bolivian president said the $35.5 million bilateral debt with Switzerland was revalued at 11 cents on the dollar, adding that the resulting $3.5 million will be used to finance handicraft projects, small industries, and ecology.

He also stressed an important aspect of his visit to Germany: The repurchase in Hamburg of the final installments of the Bolivian debt to international private banks within the framework of the meeting of governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In remarks to La Paz Radio Panamericana, Paz Zamora said: "It was an important visit," adding that "nothing would have been possible if we had not put our house in order."

He said: "No one will help a disorderly country resolve its debt problem, regardless how poor it is. It will drown under the weight of all its debts."

Paz Zamora has two trips pending before ending his term in office. The first is to visit his Peruvian counterpart Alberto Fujimori, and the second to Brazil, the country which will host the third "Ibero-American Summit."

Candidate Banzer's Campaign Helicopter 'Damaged'

PY0504131793 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Hugo Banzer and Oscar Zamora Medinacelli, candidates for president and vice president of the Republic, respectively, for the Patriotic Agreement, suddenly suspended a campaign trip to some Cochabamba provinces after a hole in the rear propeller of their helicopter was discovered. It was presumably caused by a bullet.

The incident took place on 3 April at the Jorge Wilsterman airport in Cochabamba a few minutes before Banzer and Zamora were to board the aircraft that would take them to Morochata. During the pre-flight check, the crew reported that the rear propeller was damaged and that it was very dangerous to fly.

According to preliminary investigations, the damage was not accidental. It was caused by a .45 caliber bullet fired from less than 15 meters. The helicopter was parked on a ramp at the Cochabamba airport with three other small airplanes which were not damaged. It is assumed that some people attempted to expressly attack the Patriotic Agreement candidates.

AASANA [Auxiliary Air Navigation National Service Administration] security personnel confirmed that they guarded the aircraft until dawn on 3 April, but they did not rule out the possibility that the perpetrators could have fooled the guards at some moment. Investigations will continue until the facts are clarified.

The Patriotic Agreement leaders declined to make any declaration until the incident is completely clarified. Meanwhile, Banzer and Zamora said they will continue their presidential campaign despite this inconvenience.

Brazil

Mission To Try To Block U.S. Sanctions 15-16 Apr

PY0604030493 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Apr 93 Section 1 p 8

[Text] Brazil will send a diplomatic mission to Washington on 15 and 16 April to try to prevent the U.S. Government from implementing the trade sanctions which it has threatened to implement. The Itamaraty plans to show that the Brazilian Government is working to obtain Congressional approval for the patents law. The diplomats will also say that the government has progressed in opening the economy. The Itamaraty will try to convince U.S. officials that other modifications to the national laws depend on reviewing the Constitution. Ambassador Rubens Barbosa, Itamaraty under secretary general for integration, economic affairs, and trade, said on 2 April that the government is not concerned about possible U.S. retaliation, as suggested in the report that criticizes trade barriers in force in Brazil and 43 other countries. Ambassador Barbosa said: "We want to correct inaccuracies contained in the report about Brazil." He added that Itamaraty did not find any overt criticism of the country in the report. The U.S. statistics show that in 1992 U.S. exports to Brazil decreased by 6 percent, while Brazilian exports to the United States increased by 13.1 percent. This resulted in a $1.7 billion deficit for the United States.

Franco's Decreasing Popularity Viewed

PY0604160093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 93 Section 1 p 8

[Article by Josias de Souza from Brasilia]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has become more unpopular in his first six months than Fernando Collor de Mello did during the first six months of his administration. Despite the negative effect of his decision to confiscate the resources deposited in savings pass books, Collor's administration was considered excellent/good by 34 percent of the people. Franco's administration, marked by its "Nothing Plan," is considered good by just 18 percent of the people.

A nationwide DataFOLHA poll conducted on 27 and 28 March shows that—for the first time—the bad/awful figures (21 percent) surpass the excellent/good figures (18 percent) on the scale that measures Itamar Franco's popularity.

After six months in office, 20 percent of society disapproved of Collor. After the same period, Franco was considered average by 54 percent, compared with 43 percent obtained by Collor.

Concerning popularity, Franco returned to his initial level. When Congress removed Collor from the presidency, DataFOLHA found that 18 percent expected a good or optimum government from Franco. At the beginning of February, Franco's popularity took a leap: He was liked by 36 percent of the people.

At the beginning of March, two days after the dismissal of Paulo Haddad—who was more or less the brains behind the first economic plan of the current government—Franco dropped to 24 percent. It now stands at 18 percent.

Disapproval of Franco is higher among educated Brazilians (29 percent) and among more experienced people (23 percent among older people). The drop reflected in the latest DataFOLHA poll was also detected in the polls ordered by the Planalto Palace.

The person responsible for Itamar Franco's popularity drop is Itamar Franco. In six months he has had three finance ministers and threw public tantrums at Planalto Palace on several occasions, but he has failed to present a government plan.

Supreme Court Confiscates Collor's Assets

PY0304020993 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Ilmar Galvao upheld the request that has been made for the confiscation of the assets of former President Fernando Collor, PC [Paulo Cesar] Farias, and seven other people involved in the PC scheme. Alexandre Garcia reports directly from the Supreme Court in Brasilia:

[Begin Garcia's live report from Brasilia] Justice (Joamar Galvao), the judge in charge of the case before the Supreme Court, today did nothing else but evaluate Attorney General Aristides Junqueira's request for the confiscation of the assets and preventive arrest of the nine people involved in the PC scheme case, including former President Collor.

The decision regarding the preventive arrest of those involved will be handed down by the Supreme Court plenum after the Easter festivities. During that

upcoming session, the Supreme Court will decide whether it will uphold the request for the arrest, and if it does so, then the trial will begin.

Regarding the confiscation of assets, the justice upheld the attorney general's request. Thus the assets, the known assets, that were acquired since the time Collor assumed power, in other words, since March 1990, that belong to those involved are now confiscated and have been placed at the disposal of the courts in order to be returned to the public estate if an unfavorable sentence is handed down.

In Collor's case, his share in Casa da Dinda, in other words the so-called gardens of Casa da Dinda; a plot of land in the lake area of Brasilia; Elba and Opala Diplomata cars; telephones; and even a jet cart [preceding two words in English; as heard] have been confiscated.

Paulo Cesar Farias' shares in (Verak), Inc. and a third of an island in Mandau Lake in Maceio have been confiscated.

Vehicles, a house on the North Peninsula in Brasilia, and telephones have been confiscated from Claudio Vieira, Collor's former secretary.

The court was surprised at the assets in the name of secretary Rosinete Melanias that were acquired at the beginning of the Collor government—an elegant apartment in Morumbi in Sao Paulo, another apartment in Maceio, and three cars.

Alexandre Garcia from Brasilia. [end live report]

Government Fails To Pay Interest to World Bank, IDB

PY0304153093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] National Treasury Secretary Murilo Portugal said that in March the government failed to pay 2.75 trillion cruzeiros in overdue interest to the World Bank and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank].

According to Portugal, this measure is part of a strategy announced by Economy Minister Eliseu Resende and Planning Minister Yeda Crusius.

Portugal said the idea is to manage national treasury funds with all means available, explaining that this measure represents a normal procedure in the national treasury's funds management.

Federal Agents Involved in Drug Deal in Manaus Arrested

PY0604134693 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] The federal agents who stole 141 kg of cocaine from the Manaus Federal Police Superintendency have been arrested. Marco Antonio Torres and Jose Alonso Balbi copied the superintendency safe keys and sold the drug estimated at more than 35 billion cruzeiros to traffickers Raimundo Fonseca de Araujo and Aloysio Baleiro.

The cocaine was exported to Europe. Two other members of the trafficking ring—Gilmar Rodriguez and Belsimar Baleiro—are wanted by the federal police.

Chile

Economic Talks With Bolivia Termed 'Difficult'

PY0504160293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Following last Saturday's difficult negotiations, as they were described by Bolivian Integration Under Secretary Bernardo Inch, the Chilean and Bolivian delegations yesterday managed to agree on 19 of the 20 conflictive points on the negotiations agenda prior to signing an agreement on economic complementation between the two countries.

Although they failed to reach full agreement, the Chilean and Bolivian negotiators devised a compromise formula between their conflictive aspirations and decided that their foreign ministers will ultimately decide on and announce the achievement or non-achievement of an agreement.

The negotiators, headed by Inch on the Bolivian side, and by Eduardo Moyano, the Chilean international economic relations director, concur on the three key areas. They established a list of Bolivian products that will enter Chile free of tariffs without reciprocity from Chile.

This measure seeks to offset the trade balance between the two countries which currently shows a $100 million deficit for Bolivia.

The list provides for $30 million per annum of Bolivian exports to Chile: comprising $10 million worth of industrial products that will not compete with Chilean products, especially spun cotton and tin alloys. The remaining $20 million comprise soybean oil and cake, a move that has been criticized by Chilean farmers.

Second, agreement was reached on a reciprocity list, establishing free movement between the two nations for 100 Bolivian products and 100 Chilean products. This list includes all products that previously enjoyed partial tariff exemptions under the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] framework and that, following the signature of this agreement, will be exempt of all tariffs.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean said in Santa Cruz that the talks are well advanced and that it is likely that the framework agreement between the two countries will be signed on 6 April.

Ministers Announce Economic Agreement

PY0504185693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Chile and Bolivia will sign an economic and commercial complementation agreement tomorrow. This was announced by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean, after a meeting.

The foreign ministers said they will sign the agreement within the framework of a Rio Group meeting that began today and will end tomorrow in the city of Santa Cruz in Bolivia.

The commercial treaty between the two countries will last 10 years, during which Chile and Bolivia will trade about 80 products free of tariffs, although this number will be revised every three years.

Before signing the treaty, Foreign Minister Silva Cimma and Foreign Minister MacLean will hold a second meeting—following the conclusion of the Rio Group meeting—to finalize details.

Silva Cimma's visit to Bolivia represents the first visit by a Chilean foreign minister to that country in 46 years.

Highlights of Chilean-Venezuelan Joint Declaration

PY0404013293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1834 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Santiago, 2 Apr (EFE)—On 2 April, Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Venezuelan counterpart, Fernando Ochoa Antich, signed a joint declaration promising to defend democracy and pledging their support for the Rio Group's actions and the GATT negotiations.

The ministers also voiced their satisfaction with the economic cooperation agreement that Chilean Economy Minister Jorge Marshall and Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute Miguel Rodriguez signed at the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

This agreement includes three lists of customs tariff reductions that will be implemented in keeping with a strict timetable until customs tariffs are totally eliminated in 1999.

In their joint declaration, Silva Cimma and Ochoa Antich stated their "firm support for democratic institutions, the full enforcement of basic freedoms, and respect for human rights."

The ministers emphasized their satisfaction "with the close continental solidarity that has emerged in the face of the attempts to alter the life of institutions in the hemisphere," and reiterated that they are convinced of the full validity of the mechanism for political consultation and coordination—the Rio Group.

They noted "the efficiency and validity" of the Rio Group as a forum for regional political dialogue and an interlocutor with the EC and Japan.

The two ministers reiterated the importance their governments attach to the effort to liberalize international trade and promote "equitable access to markets," conveying their support for the Uruguay round of GATT talks.

They emphasized that a positive outcome in such talks will strengthen the world economy, giving developing countries new opportunities for promoting their economies.

The ministers reiterated their willingness to strengthen the integration processes that are being implemented within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and expressed their support for the OAS mission in Haiti.

They expressed their concern about the serious problem the region is confronting in the wake of the production, sale, consumption, and trafficking of illegal drugs, narcotics, and psychotropic substances, and about the lack of appropriate laws in the region's countries for controlling the laundering of drug trafficking money.

Silva Cimma and Ochoa Antich also signed a bilateral agreement on drug trafficking control, an agreement for joint production of movies, and a tourism integration and cooperation treaty.

Concerning the general framework of bilateral relations, the two ministers said relations have been marked "by permanent solidarity and broad cooperation." They expressed their certainty that Ochoa Antich's visit to Chile "will contribute to peace in the region."

Ochoa Antich said the agreements show that the two governments and nations want to preserve democracy, liberalize their economies, and promote development and strengthen their internal structure through commerce.

Communist Party To Run in 60 Districts in December Election

PY0504150593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has announced that its candidates will run in 60 districts for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in the December election. This was reported by PCCh President Volodia Teitelboim. We are not interested in gaining more legislative seats, but in restoring the democratic system, he said.

Teitelboim noted that there is currently less democracy in our country than under the [Jorge] Alessandri administration [1958- 1964], the [Eduardo] Frei Montalva

administration [1964-1970], or the [Salvador] Allende administration [1970-1973].

The PCCh yesterday closed the 21st PCCh Politburo plenum, in preparation for its 16th National Congress.

Leftist Candidate Denies Negotiations Over Posts

PY0404022593 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Ricardo Lagos said leftist groups are not negotiating with the Christian Democratic Party over ministerial posts or congressional candidacies for the next government.

Lagos attended a PDI [Leftist Democratic Participation Movement] meeting at the old Senators' Hall of a former Congress building now used by the Foreign Ministry.

With a standing ovation, the PDI conveyed its support for Lagos for the internal elections in which the government coalition will elect its candidate. Lagos noted that this procedure is a formula that will strengthen the coalition and Chilean democracy. [passage omitted]

Colombia

ELN Expresses Willingness To Resume Peace Talks

PA0404195493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Apr 93 p 8A

[Text] In a communique published on 1 April, the Army of National Liberation (ELN) said it is willing to respect the dialogue process between the government and the Socialist Renewal Movement "in order to contribute to restoring the climate of credibility and understanding required for the peace talks."

In addition, the ELN expressed its willingness to begin talks with the government in order to find a path leading to a political solution to the domestic conflict. It did not, however, offer to carry out any action to show its desire for peace.

The ELN appointed Francisco Galan [Gerardo Bermudez Sanchez], as its political spokesman. Galan was arrested by the Army in late 1992 and sent to Modelo Jail in Santa Fe de Bogota.

The communique contains the conclusions of the 10th ELN national plenary meeting held approximately 15 days ago at the border between Santander and Norte de Santander Departments.

The announcements made by the guerrilla organization, viewed as the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board's [CNG] most radical group, were channeled through the Chamber of Representatives Peace Commission, made up of Rafael Serrano Prada, of the Conservative Party; Gustavo Petro, of the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, AD/M-19; and Manuel Cepeda, of the Communist Party.

The communique was also sent to Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez.

On various occasions, the Chamber of Representatives Peace Commission has held talks with Francisco Galan with the intention, according to Petro, of seeking mechanisms that will permit the resumption of the peace talks suspended in March 1992 in Tlaxcala (Mexico).

The decision of the 10th plenum was announced through various spokesmen who contacted Serrano, Petro, and Cepeda to transmit the message sent by the ELN top leaders.

The plenary meeting was headed by priest Manuel Perez, Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista ("Babino"), and the five members of the ELN Central Command.

According to parliamentarian sectors, the fact that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, did not sign the document was significant. It was learned, however, that the FARC will reportedly issue a similar communique before the end of April, but not on behalf of the CNG.

Members of the congressional Peace Commission will meet with Francisco Galan at Modelo Jail next week to review the conclusions reached at the 10th plenary meeting.

Spokesmen of the Socialist Renewal Movement announced that the organization will issue a statement on the peace process it will soon begin with the government.

Government Minister Rules Out Talks With Rebels

PA0304031693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Government Minister Fabio Villegas replied to Congressmen Serrano, of the Social Conservative Party; Petro, of the 19 April Movement; and Manuel Cepeda, of the Communist Party, that there are no conditions for a dialogue with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the Army of National Liberation as proposed by them. Therefore, prisoner Francisco Galan [Gerardo Bermudez Sanchez] will not be spokesman for those groups.

Unless they change their attitude, regardless of who is appointed mediator or spokesman, the process will always be fruitless, Villegas concluded.

Escobar Liaison Surrenders to Antioquia Authorities

PA0404183193 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p 16C

[Excerpt] Carlos Enrique Velez Restrepo voluntarily surrendered to Antioquia Department authorities on 31 March and denied having any connections with the activities of Mario Alberto Castano Molina, "El Chopo." Velez, according to the search team, calls himself "Suzuki."

Investigations carried out by security forces and the Office of the Prosecutor General reveal "Suzuki" is one of fugitive Pablo Escobar Gaviria's direct liaisons within the Medellin Cartel.

Velez appeared at the Antioquia Department Attorney General's Office and stated that he had been working for Medellin Public Enterprises, where he began as a driver and now works at the power damage control section.

Velez' deposition was corroborated by a spokesperson for the Public Affairs Office of the Antioquia corporation, who added that their employee had an impeccable record.

Velez also stated that a brother of his, Humberto, did in fact work as a driver for "El Chopo's" father. He said, however, that he had lost contact with his brother several months ago.

Velez was mentioned in connection with the financial activities of the Medellin Cartel, soon after the search team searched an apartment in Itagui. There, the team found weapons, ammunition, and documents allegedly belonging to a person close to Mario Alberto Castano Molina, "El Chopo," who died in a shoot-out with a special police unit on 19 March.

The special police force found a German-made long-range rifle, a MT-5 submachine gun—used exclusively by the Armed Forces—1,675 9-mm bullets, 10 16-mm rifle bullets, 20 38-caliber bullets, five 5.5-mm bullets, two clips, two batteries, two 175-cc motorcycles bearing license plates GCU14 and EWP22, and accounting documents. [passage omitted]

Army Reports on Struggle Against Guerrillas

PA0204210493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Things are looking pretty good for the Army in 1993. In the first three months of 1993, the results of the struggle against the guerrillas are most encouraging.

According to a report presented on 2 April by General Hernan Jose Guzman, the Army commander, to the defense minister, during the first 90 days of 1993 a total of 320 rebels were killed, of which 142 belonged to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], 113 belonged to the Army of National Liberation [ELN], 41 belonged to the Popular Liberation Army [EPL], and 24 were common criminals.

Twice as many guerrillas were captured during the first 90 days of 1993 as compared to the same period in 1992. A total of 603 guerrillas were captured, 92 from the FARC, 107 from the ELN, 62 from the EPL, 165 were drug traffickers, and 176 were common criminals.

The Army campaign to motivate guerrillas to desert has yielded positive results. In the past three months, 67 rebels have turned themselves in to the authorities.

There is also a positive balance in capturing war materiel. According to the official statistics, the Army seized: 800 weapons, over 16,000 explosives, nearly 100,000 rounds of ammunition, and 125 pieces of communications equipment.

The statistics are good. Nonetheless, the farmers, the residents of remote villages, and the relatives of kidnapped persons feel the guerrillas are still very powerful enemies, who day by day are hindering their normal lives.

Article Outlines Medellin Cartel

PA0404172993 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Mar 93 pp 1, 3A

[Report by Edgar Torres]

[Text] Colombian security organizations, especially the National Police, have asserted that the offensive against Pablo Escobar Gaviria and his organization has undermined 85 percent of the drug cartel's military, financial, and terrorist networks.

Testimonies, accusations, inquiries, and investigations, however, indicate that the shady organization still subsists. The Medellin Cartel lives on in the streets.

The total organization includes approximately 130 people. A total of 30 of those individuals are currently under investigation on suspicion they are Escobar's direct partners. The identities and aliases of the remaining cartel members—approximately 100 people—correspond to alleged assassins and terrorists at the service of the drug organization.

The Office of the Prosecutor General, the search team, and the Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate [DIJIN] are investigating and trying to locate each and every one of the 130 suspects.

Alias: "Maxwell" or "Trapeadora"
Identity: Gustavo Gutierrez Arrubla
Profession: Lawyer
General Information: former candidate to La Estrella municipality mayor's post
Charges obtained at inquiries: He is Pablo Escobar's direct partner and currently coordinates the terrorist groups in Santa Fe de Bogota and Medellin.

Alias: "Amigo Chichi"
Identity: Nicolas Bergonzoli
General Information: He lives with a television model and studies dentistry at the Medellin CES [not further identified].
Charges obtained at inquiries: He replaced Luis Fernando Posada, Medellin Cartel financial chief, who is currently in prison.

The list is very long. Up until now, the identities of the people on the list have been unknown. There are several men who are currently reported to be Pablo Escobar Gaviria's direct partners. These men are: Dr. Penagos, a

plastic surgeon, is the capo's friend and supporter; Dr. Serralde, a shareholder of a private firm that manages Escobar's money; and Luis Carlos Rendon, alias "Capulina," who is "Berracol's" [not further identified] brother and the coordinator of illegal activities.

The list includes approximately 130 names and aliases. Thirty of them are individuals under investigation as Pablo Escobar's direct partners. The rest of the individuals—approximately 100—are presumed hired gunmen and terrorists at the service of the organization.

The Office of the Prosecutor General, the search team, and Dijin are currently trying to locate the 130 men. The Medellin Cartel still exists on the streets.

According to security agencies—particularly the National Police—the offensive against Escobar and his organization has undermined 85 percent of his military, financial, and terrorist apparatus.

Since Escobar's escape from jail in June 1992, authorities have successfully faced approximately 100 of his men and have killed eight [number as published] powerful terrorist chiefs: Mario Castano Molina, "El Chopo"; Hernando Dario Henao, "HH"; Johny Rivera Acosta "El Palomo"; and Leonardo Rivera Rincon, "Leo."

Seven other terrorist chiefs have been captured and the pressure on the cartel has resulted in the incarceration of 18 criminals, including Pablo's brother, Roberto Escobar Gaviria.

Despite the success of the persecution against the cartel, investigators and government officials believe Escobar still maintains a complex, intricate, and tenebrous criminal organization.

Testimonies, accusations, investigations, and inquiries have enabled the Office of the Prosecutor General and Judicial Police agencies to ascertain the criminal organization's structure, which still subsists in a parallel fashion or is linked to Escobar's associates, who are dead or in prison.

The information now in the hands of the police or faceless judges reveals that "Maxwell," "Amigo Chichi," "Dr. Penagos," "Dr. Serralde," and "Capulina" operate with other direct partners: Alonso Munoz, Bertulfo Molina, Juan Luis Castano, "La Ardilla," or "La Hiena," Pablo Agredo (Piloto), Pedrito Uribe, and Oscar Toto ("Toritos").

Other presumed Medellin Cartel partners have been identified as Juan and Luis Velez, Alcides Rios ("El Espia"), Victor Marquez, Hernan Mejia Moncada, Mario Alberto Pelaez, Libia Cortez, Caliche Gil, Alberto Ochoa, Hernan Saenz, Alvaro Vanegas, Jorge Hernandez, Hernando Montes, Felipe Perez, and Alvaro Garcia, "El Barranquillero."

Other Medellin Cartel terrorists directly linked to Escobar have been identified by their aliases as "Susuki,-" Pedro ("Musico"), "Neriz" and his brother "Maniz," "Manzano," "Ternero," "Grabadora," "Cama Suelta," and "Amistad."

According to the information obtained by investigation organizations, the list includes the members of the Avendano Clan: "Coco," "Garrafa," and "Leon" Avendano, brother of Eduardo "El Tato" Avendano, who surrendered to justice.

This broad spectrum of the Medellin Cartel network, which in the opinion of the authorities encompasses an undetermined number of links per individual, has other tentacles.

Investigations have disclosed the names of "lower level" hired gunmen and terrorists who worked for Carlos Alzate Urquijo, "Arete," "Comanche," "HH," "El Chopo," and Victor Giovanni Granada, "La Modelo," or "Pasarela."

Since "Arete" surrendered to justice in February 1993, authorities have clashed with seven of the organization's top men and have been searching for 11 others.

Authorities persecuted and killed Carlos Mario Ossa, "El Canoso," Victor Giovanni Granada, "Zarco," and Leonardo Rivera, "Leo," among others. William Cardenas Calle, alias "Lenguas," believed to be the coordinator of terrorist attacks in Santa Fe de Bogota, surrendered to justice on 1 March 1993.

Now, authorities are after "Moncho," "Conavi," "Turquia," "Pedro," "El Piloto," "El Berriondo," and "Pirri."

Two of "Arete's" men who are also being sought are Dario Popeye, brother of "El Canoso"; and David, "El Campeon" or "Guinapo." The latter survived a car bomb explosion, while "Tarzan," and "El Cucaracho" died in the terrorist action.

The network that operated under the late "Chopo," whose members are being sought by intelligence agencies, includes 29 terrorists, in addition to John Jairo Posada Valencia, "El Titi," "Memo Bolis," and "Juan Caca," (currently in jail).

Authorities are trying to locate "Fredy Misterio" and his brother "Acolito," as well as terrorists identified as "Cabezon," "Toby," "Penquiao," Jairo Pizano, Juan Carlos, "El Latino," "Chunco," "Elkin," "El Nato," "Manessa," "Manolete," and "Raton."

The lists of hired gunmen and terrorists in the organizations under "HH," "La Modelo," and "Comanche" are similar.

Hence, based on the investigations, authorities have concluded that the cartel still maintains an impressive criminal structure.

Kidnapped Ecopetrol Official Dead; Workers To Strike

PA0504201993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Report by Pablo Vasquez from Barrancabermeja]

[Text] The wake for Oscar Manuel Tamayo Romero, production chief of El Centro District of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] who was kidnapped eight days ago while inspecting the La Cira field production facilities, was held on 5 April. His body was found on 4 April on km 32 of the Middle Magdalena highway. Everything seems to indicate he was killed on the same day he was kidnapped.

Ecopetrol workers gathered on 5 April in the Workers Trade Union and voted unanimously to strike. They denied that their decision was in any way related to the death of the production chief as the Ecopetrol president has hinted. Now 12,500 workers are preparing for the strike.

* Social Development Plan for Uraba Discussed

93SM0198A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Mar 93 p 14A

[Article by Nelson Freddy Padilla C.: "Millions To Be Invested To Save Uraba"]

[Text] In another attempt to get the upper hand over violence, the government has allocated 132 billion pesos in order to provide 12,000 new housing units for the nearly 600,000 inhabitants of the important zone, plus another 500 million for "reintegrated" persons, health programs, education, roads, and public services. There will also be a tax for forest conservation, the Presidential Delegation, Regional Auditor's Office, commissioner of justice, consultant services for the resolution of conflicts, a DAS [Administrative Department of Security] office, Attorney General and Public Defender offices, and police officers who are high school graduates.

The government has finally agreed that it made a mistake in Uraba, admitting that the remedies it put in place to cure the area's problems were counterproductive and that, as a result, violence rather than steady progress continues unabated in an area measuring 31,000 square kilometers.

Although this is not what President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo will say when he visits the region this week, his unveiling of the Investment Plan for Social Development and Justice in Uraba is ample demonstration of the fact.

In response to the January 1992 demand from the Commission To Overcome Violence, a 42-page document proposes an overall solution to a conflict that appeared to have been solved early in 1991 by a so-called Social Pact that reintegrated EPL [Popular Liberation Army] guerrillas into civilian life.

The commission states in the report that "...government intervention (in Uraba) has mainly relied on repression and neglected its social functions." It, therefore, warns that "there may be a resurgence of unresolved social conflicts and tensions.... If the mistakes made in the reintegration process are not corrected, it may be reversed...."

Nevertheless, the study was pigeonholed and outbreaks of violence, which had dropped 66 percent during that period compared with 1990, shot back up as the result of so-called "private justice," which so far in 1993 has taken the lives of nearly 100 persons for presumably political reasons, mainly at the hands of EPL rebels. This fact alone resulted in the drafting of the Uraba Plan, which EL ESPECTADOR has seen.

New Diagnosis

The National Planning Department's analysis states that the project will cover 578,106 persons, including 6,000 Indians, in 19 municipalities in the Departments of Antioquia, Cordoba, and Choco.

The department's official diagnosis of Uraba, summarized below, could not be worse, marked as it is by a situation of persistent violence.

The weak government presence caused the growth of agriculture and an increase in the urban population, which comprises 30 percent of all residents, in addition to labor confrontations and disputes over land and public services.

The inability of all levels of government to ensure compliance with rules of coexistence, guarantee the rights of workers and businessmen, and protect private, public, and community property, in the case of protection for Indians, has allowed old forms of violence to be perpetuated as a means of resolving conflicts.

The municipalities have not made adequate efforts to raise taxes, plan development, or ensure compliance with the basic standards of municipal life. For example, banana growers do not pay the Value-Added Tax (IVA) or the Industry and Trade Tax.

Municipal administrations have failed to exercise their authority in order to prevent recurring invasions of public, private, and communal property (INCORA [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] figures show that 5,677 hectares have been occupied by 1,734 families), nor do they use their powers to expropriate urban property in order to meet the needs of poor people.

In the Antioquia section of Uraba, two legal circuits are operating with a total of 15 offices, six of which are public prosecutor's offices. Every municipality has at least one court. Nevertheless, the low presence of Judicial Police and nonexistence of DAS agents reduce the investigative capabilities of prosecutors, resulting in little use of judicial recourses.

The weakness of prosecutors goes hand-in-hand with a high murder rate, which in all municipalities of the Apartado circuit exceeds the country's average, and which in Chigorodo is 20 times greater! Tierralta (Cordoba), Unguia, and Acandi (Choco) also have a higher rate than the rest of Colombia.

Prosecutor's offices operate only in Acandi and Riosucio (Choco), and the number of courts for the size of the population is too low in Tierralta and Valencia (Cordoba).

There are only four notaries in Arboletes, Chigorodo, Turbo, and Tierralta. Between 1987 and 1990, the number of documents recorded dropped 20 percent, in contrast with the 10-percent increase in notarizations nationally and confirming the low use of legal means of recourse.

The Antinarcotics Police and Environmental Judge Advocate's Court have identified the area as a coca-growing region, and even though the illegal crops are basically found in the Abibe Mountains, they have in recent years spread to practically all municipalities in the region, particularly agricultural areas near the borders.

The increase in jobs and private income from banana growing has attracted people to the four municipalities comprising the banana belt, particularly in the urban area of Apartado, where the growth rate of the urban population has been 10 percent for each of the past three years.

Such rapid growth has put great pressure on services and land likely to be settled, but municipal revenue and government investments have not kept up with needs.

Inadequate Services

In the Antioquia section of Uraba, 63 percent of the people have access to water systems, compared with 82 percent for the country as a whole. The sewage system serves 30 percent of the people and the situation is critical in Turbo, where the figure drops to only 2 percent of all housing compared with 50 percent for the nation as a whole. In rural areas, such services are available to a scant 15 percent of the people.

Despite cases such as the banana-growing region, where daily wages are the highest in the country, families have difficulty finding land where they may build homes and getting banks to grant them loans. In turn, the latter fear pressure from organizations that promote defaulting on debts.

In the three areas of Choco, the sewage system is precarious and Riosucio has no water system. Municipalities in Cordoba have poorer service than the rest of the country, Tierralta and Valencia have no sewage system, and rural areas have no such services at all.

Nearly 30 percent of all homes have no electricity, some 90 percent of all families have no phones, and television does not reach most of the people.

There is absolutely no policy for backing or promoting Indian communities, which have very little income and do not know how to protect the ecosystem.

In terms of health care, the region has 12 hospitals, 16 health centers, and 42 first aid stations, an acceptable infrastructure before it was damaged by the earthquake last October. Facilities are poorly equipped, and there is no emergency system. A new hospital is nearing completion in Turbo, but it has no equipment and is not operating.

In Uraba, 24 percent of all children under the age of five receive preschool education. The average rate of elementary school attendance is 98 percent, a figure that drops to 38 percent by high school. Results are poor, as expressed in a high failure and dropout rate.

Finally, the area's road link with the central region and the rest of the Atlantic Coast is poor.

Solutions

Given this depressing picture, through the Uraba Plan, which covers a three-year period (1993-95), the government will seek to create spaces for the institutional solution of conflicts, make legal recourses both reliable and respectable, and strengthen the preventive and investigative capacity of authorities.

The main decisions include the following: the creation of a presidential delegation for Uraba; and the appointment of a Ministry of Justice commissioner who will design a plan of immediate action including the creation of a Regional Prosecutor's Office to assume authority for procedures and instances now based in Medellin and adding units to the technical investigative corps.

It will also be necessary to establish a Hall of Justice and Conciliation that will double as a headquarters for the deputy prosecutor and public defender for Uraba and mainly train prosecutors. It is to be built on vacant lots next to the Apartado Palace of Justice.

In order to investigate complaints filed against members of the Armed Forces in the region, the Prosecutor's Office will study the appointment of a deputy prosecutor. Likewise, family services offices will be set up in all municipal capitals and notary offices in Apartado and Riosucio. The ICBF [Colombian Family Welfare Institute] will set up Welfare Centers in Murindo, Vigia del Fuerte, and Tierralta.

In order to improve prison security and inmates' living conditions, the Turbo prison will undergo repair, and another facility housing 100 persons will be built in Apartado.

The Armed Forces must step up civic-military actions with the aid of military engineers. The Turbo Naval Station will be moved and a Coast Guard unit will be assigned to it to improve control of arms and drug trafficking in the Gulf of Uraba.

Police will set up an antinarcotics base in Turbo, expand the police academy program in the region, and appoint an inspector with headquarters in Apartado. The DAS will set up an operations post in Apartado staffed by at least 50 investigators.

At the same time, an intermunicipal communications system will be set up and assigned frequencies by the ministry in question.

As part of the program of municipal management, municipalities will be included in the Institutional Development Plan. Within the next two years, the official land register for municipalities and rural areas will be set up.

The government expects to complete projects to optimize the water system and expand the sewage system to cover almost all the chief towns. In the banana-growing region Inurbe is to provide housing for some 4,000 families that do not currently have adequate shelter. INCORA will give land to at least 700 families over the next two years.

Work will begin on reconstruction of the health infrastructure damaged by last year's earthquake, especially in Pavarando, Pavarandocito, Opagado, Bajira, and Murindo. The new hospital in Turbo will be equipped and the Chigorodo, Necocli, San Juan de Uraba, and San Pedro de Uraba hospitals will be remodeled. Work will also be done on the Uveros, Pueblo Nuevo, and El Totumo first aid stations. In addition, every local health organization must set up a primary care unit and modernize its health plan.

In order to improve education, 40 high school classrooms and 3,000 new primary schools will be built. School equipment will be improved and the Jaime Isaza Cadavid Polytechnical School will offer technical programs relating to civilian projects and agricultural activities.

The road infrastructure will be improved by completion of the highway to the sea, the road connecting Monteria with Turbo, and the Monteria-Valencia-San Pedro de Uraba highway. The electric power system will be completed by the Cerromatoso-Urra-Apartado line, the telephone system will be expanded to 360 channels, and the television signal should be completely restored by Inravision.

Finally, a tax will be imposed on water use, paid for by water systems, irrigation companies, and individual owners. Resources will be allocated for the rehabilitation of basins and forestry conservation. An alternative development project is being drafted to fight illegal crops. The total investment in the Uraba Plan is 132 billion pesos.

Due to the complex nature of the conflict that has plagued Uraba, the government emphasizes that the solution will not consist solely of social investments in Bogota, but involve all residents of Uraba, who must do their part in making sure that the pacification program is not just another setting for violence.

Paraguay

Wasmosy Denies Criticizing President Rodriguez

PY0304131693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Apr 93 p 7

[Report by Dario Bareiro Farina from Caacupe]

[Text] Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy has made it clear that he criticized the country's socio-economic policy and not President Andres Rodriguez. He added that he expressed his wish to improve some aspects of the current situation. He admitted the current government "did much in a short time, without bloodshed."

When questioned about his criticisms the Colorado Party presidential hopeful said: "I did not criticize the president. As soon as one says that something could have been better, we are mentioned in the newspapers' headlines." He said his criticisms had no destructive purposes. Wasmosy attended a social event in a district near Caacupe.

As for the tasks achieved by the Diben [Directorate for Social Welfare and Assistance], he reaffirmed his statement, but made it clear that it was a personal opinion on how to deal with this institution. He said: "I think that all tasks achieved by Diben must be acclaimed. It undoubtedly has met the objective of gathering the communities in community centers. I just noted that they are very huge and the communities sometimes are not able to maintain them. It would have been more positive to spend 50 percent of the fund and to annex a multipurpose room at a school in order to disseminate some of our culture."

'Maneuver' To Remove 'Bothersome' Colorado Candidates

PY0304173093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Apr 93 p 2

[text] The Colorado Party crisis resurfaced again yesterday when the Central Electoral Board [JEC] discovered the irregular situation of four party candidates, which means that they may not be able to run in the 9 May elections. It is suspicious that three of these candidates, namely Carlos Romero Pereira, Arnaldo Rojas Sanchez and Walter Bower, belong to the Colorado Reconciliation Movement [supporting presidential hopeful Luis Maria Argana], while the fourth is Emilio Pedro Cubas who, although he belongs to the faction that won the party primaries, has not been working for party candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

Due to an apparently premeditated oversight by party trustees and the ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] electoral court, four party candidates may not be able to run in the 9 May elections. They are senatorial candidates Carlos Romero Pereira,

Arnaldo A. Rojas Sanchez, and Emilio Pedro Cubas, and Walter Bower, first candidate for deputy for the Central Department. The JEC does not have the notes in which the candidates formally accepted running for the party.

The JEC duly reported this situation to ANR legal representative Juan Crisostomo Gaona, but he never relayed this information to any of the people involved, according to the candidates.

The general idea is that there are political reasons for this maneuver because of the allegiance of the people involved who expressed their total surprise at this unexpected development, which may prevent them from running in the election even though they were nominated by their fellow party members.

Emilio Cubas and Walter Bower showed up at the JEC yesterday afternoon with their lawyers Jaime Bestard and Mario Milciades Melgarejo to submit their formal acceptance of candidacy. The two stated that they found out about the problem by sheer chance through friends who warned them, adding they had not been formally notified by a party official.

Apparently, yesterday afternoon the ANR electoral court sent to the JEC the notes in which Bower, Rojas Sanchez, and Cubas Grau accepted their candidacies, leaving out only Romero Pereira.

It was obvious that the maneuver was premeditated because the JEC had reported the irregularity to party trustees on 25 March but the candidates involved found out about it only yesterday. Nor did any ANR members of the JEC notify the candidates.

It is now up to the JEC to decide whether the four candidates can remain on the Colorado Party ticket. The candidates involved have asked the JEC for an urgent decision.

The representatives of the opposition parties in the JEC have expressed their surprise at the situation to members of the same party. This development seems to prove that Colorado Party internal squabbles are continuing through maneuvers aimed at leaving certain bothersome candidates out of the race.

Candidate Caballero Expresses Doubt on Stroessner's Support

PY0604034793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Guillermo Caballero Vargas, presidential candidate for the National Encounter Alliance, said the news reported by the Brazilian daily JORNAL DO BRASIL and repeated by Paraguayan dailies also lacked credibility. He said he doubted the news that ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner supported his candidacy because he did not believe Stroessner would thus put into risk the asylum granted to him by Brazil.

Joking, Caballero said: "The next thing we can now expect them to say is that Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Domingo Laino support my candidacy." He added that these rumors were spread last week when it was also said that he was supported by the current Paraguayan president, Andres Rodriguez.

Another reason for him to doubt the JORNAL DO BRASIL report was that it was reported in a gossip column and therefore lacked credibility.

Caballero said: "Besides, I do not believe Stroessner would risk making political remarks. As he is a political refugee he cannot make this sort of remark."

The presidential candidate said that he would like to wait for the news to be confirmed because, so far, Stroessner has been respecting the political asylum granted to him by the Federative Republic of Brazil. He added that this condition clearly prevented Stroessner from discussing Brazilian or Paraguayan political issues.

"Anyway, I would be very surprised if he said that he would vote for me. It would be very strange to see him disrespect his obligations regarding his political asylum and make comments so clearly linked to Paraguayan political life only 30 days before the elections," Caballero said.

He added that his movement is committed to its allies—Asuncion for All, Febrerista Revolutionary Party, and the Christian Social Union [Unidad Social Cristiana]—but is not linked to any other Paraguayan political party or movement, nor with former President Stroessner. He thus discarded any sort of agreement with Stroessner or Stroessner's followers.

Caballero said that if Stroessner has really made these comments it is because the Colorado Party plans to confuse the voters.

He concluded by saying: "I insist that they are thus trying to confuse the voters. I definitively believe, however, that they will not succeed in doing so. The indisputable majority of votes that we have in Paraguay cannot be modified in the next 30 days."

Polls Show Caballero Vargas Victory If Elections Held 'Today'

PY0504173693 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 4 Apr 93 pp 2, 3

[Text] If the elections were held today, the victory of [National Encounter, EN, presidential candidate] Guillermo Caballero Vargas would be undisputable. According to a poll conducted by the ICA [Institute for Communications and Art] for the Private Communications Network [Red Privada de Comunicacion], the EN candidate has established a comfortable lead. The votes of Colorado Party members who have chosen not to support the ANR [National Republican Association] candidate [Juan Carlos Wasmosy] play a key role. The percentage achieved by Juan Carlos Wasmosy has

improved substantially, but he is still nearly 7 percent behind the first place. According to the ICA, the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] candidate [Domingo Laino] has remained static and has even slightly dropped.

With 32.9 percent, Guillermo Caballero Vargas has a comfortable lead. This undoubtedly shows that if the elections were held today, he would become the president of the Republic.

Compared with other polls published recently by local newspapers, the RPC-ICA poll shows Caballero Vargas' support has increased from 31 to 32.9 percent, Wasmosy's support has increased from 22 to 24 percent, and Laino's support has declined from 29 (or 26, according to some) to 20.4 percent.

Although in first place, Caballero Vargas' growth rate has slowed, possibly due to the increase by Wasmosy, who, in past polls, appeared a clear loser but who has substantially improved his chances. It still remains to be seen, however, if he can overtake Caballero Vargas in the short time left before the 9 May elections.

The undecided vote has increased to 16 percent. Thus, during April the various candidates will have to work hard if they are to win the undecided voters' confidence.

Asuncion: National Encounter's Stronghold

Caballero Vargas has consolidated his lead in Asuncion. According to the ICA poll, he is close to achieving an absolute majority (50.2 percent), considerably distancing himself from Juan Carlos Wasmosy (20.9 percent) and Domingo Laino (13.2 percent). It is important to note that Asuncion has the smallest number of undecided voters (7.2 percent).

In Greater Asuncion, Laino is notably recovering ground, although Caballero Vargas continues to lead. The number of undecided voters is more than double than that in Asuncion. This is the key district for victory in the 9 May elections.

The largest number of undecided voters may be found in the electoral districts in the interior of our country. Some 25 percent of those living in towns with less than 5,200 registered voters still do not know for whom they will vote. April's great electoral battle will be for the undecided voters who may become a decisive factor. Wasmosy is stronger in small towns and weaker in those with more than 17,500 voters where Caballero Vargas is gaining ground. Laino remains in the same position in all three categories.

Fifty Percent of Voters Said Colorado Party Members

PY0504201293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 5 Apr 93 pp 2, 3

[Text] The Colorado Party [ANR—National Republican Association] undoubtedly is a major party. According to a poll conducted by the ICA [expansion unknown] at the request of the Private Communications Network [RPC], more than 50 percent of voters are Colorado Party members. Therefore, it is obvious that the party's primaries, which have left so many open wounds, is the main reason for Wasmosy not being mentioned as the obvious winner in the coming May elections. Although 47.2 percent of the Colorado Party members polled guaranteed that they would vote for the party's candidate, a high percentage (21.9 percent) of the ruling party members prefer Caballero Vargas. The EN [National Encounter] presidential candidate has also received the support of 7.2 percent of Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] members. Nevertheless, many (20 percent) Colorado Party members have not yet not decided whom they will support.

Concerning political support, the figures have not substantially changed in our country despite the internal processes that have taken place in most political parties.

According to the RPC-ICA poll, 50.8 percent of the people polled say they are Colorado Party members or supporters. As usual, the PLRA ranks second with 23.1 percent, while 20.4 percent of those polled have expressed support for the EN.

Possibly due to the formation of the movement that has nominated Caballero Vargas, the percentage of voters who are not members of any political party has declined substantially, as only 5.1 percent of the people polled say they are totally independent.

Possibly due to its conflictive internal process, the ANR is experiencing a large dispersion of votes, as only 47.2 percent of the polled Colorado Party members have guaranteed that they will vote for Colorado Party candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

Among the Colorado Party members, 21.9 percent stressed they prefer to support Guillermo Caballero Vargas instead of voting for the ruling party candidate. Breaking a century-old taboo, an extremely small percentage of Colorado Party members has decided to support a PLRA candidate: 1.4 percent of Colorado Party members said they would vote for Domingo Laino.

Within the PLRA, the distribution of votes is not as significant, although 7.2 percent of PLRA people prefer Caballero Vargas instead of Laino. There is also a substantial change within the PLRA as 1.6 percent of their members prefer to vote for a long-standing opponent, a Colorado Party candidate.

Many Colorado Party Members Remain Undecided

As in previous cases, the undecided voters undoubtedly will be the ones who will ultimately tip the balance toward any one candidate. Given the party's large membership, the percentage of Colorado Party members who still have not decided for whom they will vote will actually be the ones who will determine the outcome of the May elections.

Twenty percent of the ruling party members, possibly belonging to the "Argana" faction, remain undecided. It is likely that the three major candidates will dedicate their efforts to these undecided voters before election day.

Concerning the distribution of votes, Caballero Vargas is supported by various sectors. Concerning the voters, 33.8 percent are Colorado Party members while 5.1 percent are PLRA members.

Foreign Minister Says Closure of Argentine Canal 'Only Alternative'

PY0504185993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 20

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken yesterday said that Paraguay has no other alternative than to ask Argentina to close the canal it opened on the Pilcomayo River. "This is our only alternative; we must request the closure of the canal," he stated.

He said that any negotiation on the subject must include the closure of the canal. "We want to reinstate the normal water course. After that, we will begin to negotiate," he said.

Frutos Vaesken said that the river diversion must be corrected because it violates international laws and principles. "They are using water without permission when that was not what we sought. That is not what we wanted," he said.

He said that an agreement with the Argentine Government must be ready before the works begin in the zone affected by the diversion of the river water. He said that work will begin after the water level drops, "by the end of May or mid June."

The foreign minister said that he will discuss this subject with his Argentine counterpart during a meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

When asked whether he will ask Argentina for a written commitment on the problem, he said: "Of course," adding that there already exists a promise by the Menem administration to discuss the subject. [passage omitted]

The minister said that the cooperation of the Armed Forces is essential because they will open roads and clear the area. "We cannot get the machinery to the site because there are no roads. That is why we need the help of the Army," he said.

Frutos Vaesken admitted that he is aware of the seriousness of the problem and stressed that negotiations must be complete before the water level begins to drop.

At the end of the news conference, and after the microphone was turned off, the minister said that if the problem is not solved fast, Paraguay should excavate other canals to recover the water.

Army Commander Labels Argentina's River Diversion as 'Usurpation'

PY0504190293 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p 20

[Text] Army Commander Division General Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos has labeled the building by Argentina of a canal to divert the normal course of the Pilcomayo River as "usurpation." He said that the Armed Forces are ready to guarantee the sovereignty of Paraguayan territory. "The Armed Forces are ready to act if necessary," he said.

Ocampos was a member of the delegation that was supposed to have overflown the river course but which was postponed because of bad weather in the town of Pedro. P. Pena. The plane was forced to return to the capital without accomplishing its objective.

He labeled as positive the fact that representatives of the Paraguayan forces "went to see where the river is being diverted, to witness this usurpation by our neighbor."

He said: "It is clear that beside the technical work done to deviate the river course, there is an evil attitude by Argentines against our sovereignty."

When asked about the measures that the Armed Forces could adopt to solve the problem, Ocampos said: "The Armed Forces, in their role to safeguard our sovereignty and our border, are ready to guarantee our territory."

He said that this "is a very singular case, where the Armed Forces and other institutions are acting responsibly to guarantee our possessions."

"The Armed Forces are ready to act if necessary," he added.

When asked what he meant concretely, he said: "To establish our presence, to cooperate with different groups in clearing the vegetation and facilitating the works that must be done."

Finally, Ocampos said that the problem of the Pilcomayo River is of national interest.

Peru

Fujimori Gives 5 Apr Coup Anniversary Address

PA0604043793 Lima Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0302 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Speech by President Alberto Fujimori marking the anniversary of the 5 April 1992 coup d'etat from the Presidential Palace in Lima—live]

[Text] Fellow citizens, good evening. Exactly one year ago, on the evening of 5 April 1992, I addressed you to let you know the dramatic decision we had adopted to carry out a drastic program. The program outlined extraordinary measures that would give the government the necessary means to prevent the country's collapse.

The provisional emergency measures outlined in the program certainly involved a rupture of our constitutional order. I did not ignore that. For a president elected by an overwhelming majority of the people, the suspension, although provisional, of the basic institutions in the system that represents the basis of his power and mandate could represent a contradiction, a suicide.

I could not be stopped by this knowledge because it would have meant we had to continue our coexistence with a democracy in which no one believed. I think every Peruvian had asked himself or herself how we would efficiently struggle against terrorism; what to do with a noisy parliament that sabotaged basic measures; and what to do with an intimidated Judicial Branch.

Congress and the Judicial Branch were two essential institutions of the Republic that grossly lent themselves to the game of terrorism. Following a lengthy reflection I came to the conclusion there was no other option if I we wanted to place Peru on the correct path. We had to nip in the bud the factors that prevented this.

For months I coldly contemplated the people's possible reaction to a series of radical measures. I wondered how the Armed Forces and National Police would react in a particularly difficult situation, such as the one that occurred on 5 April, given the need to act urgently against the terrorism that continued to dangerously undermine our state and society. My concern about the situation did not leave out the international community's reaction.

I have mentioned something that played a decisive role in my decision: In every meeting we held with people in the most remote settlements, villages, and towns in the country I was able to ascertain a tenacious hope for the change I supposedly represented. I told myself: Did I change my life to simply figure in the gallery of democratic presidents? I asked myself time and again if the Peruvian people had no right to achieve peace and development. What a question!

Peruvians have suffered the governments' mismanagement and the ensuing sequel of misfortunes for so long, decades. We asked ourselves with confusion if we had the right, like other peoples in the world, to live properly; eat enough; give our children a better education; and, in sum, try to be happy some day. What has happened in Peru for us to reach this situation? Those who are 40 years old have experienced it; those who are younger have to know. We have had a vicious, decadent political system manipulated by elites and groups that dragged the whole country into a horrible crisis, an economic crisis, a social and moral crisis.

Under the guise of democracy in Peru, there prevailed nothing other than a banquet of power. A party and its leader rose to power and the opposition, which had lost the elections, made them fail so they could win the next elections. When the latter rose to power the former, which had lost the elections, became an opposition as damaging as the previous one.

This was the pseudodemocracy they were defending. In those primitive struggles, involving all sorts of subordinate interests, no one in Peru ever thought of the nation's interests. Where was the minimal patriotism required for Peru to progress? Nowhere. Thus, the national crisis began, bad government, chaos, corruption; these ills did not come accidentally. Why would God have to punish a hard-working people? It was the work of irresponsible leaders. The work and sacrifice of the Armed Forces and National Police were annulled as terrorists were released. One after another, terrorists were released for lack of evidence. Where terrorism was concerned, fear and corruption had taken over the Judicial Branch. Prior to 5 April, over 200 terrorists were released. It was easy to foresee that terrorism could not be fought off in an efficient manner, let alone defeated.

Congress, the only branch of state capable of reforming the Judicial Branch, took no measures. This is how things were at least during the 12 years during which the so-called democracy and the so-called balance of powers were enforced. Meanwhile, Peru had been bleeding for 12 years and did not have even the remotest prospect of controlling terrorism. Within this context, an effort was being made to develop an economic program that was supposed to attract investments. In the midst of rampant terrorism, the branches of state had their arms folded but were displaying every form of democracy. In other words, hypocrisy was agreed upon among certain politicians and intellectuals who were dedicated to the science of Shining Pathism [senderologia]. Both benefited from this system; the former because they enjoyed privileges and the latter because they had the raw material for their brainy analyses and predictions.

On 5 April I rebelled against this system, this status quo. As I expected, I was followed and unreservedly supported by a people who were tired of so much frustration. I was also supported by the high commands of the Armed Forces and National Police, who until then had been waging an unequal war against Peru's main enemy. I adopted a position of rebellion against the system, against formalities, and as president of the Republic. Out of responsibility and basic political ethics, I concluded that I must choose between change and social transformation and deals which, under the guise of national agreements, would attempt through pressure and sabotage to induct into the vicious circle a president who had been elected precisely to end the dance of interests and privileges at the expense of the nation and its progress.

Having made up my mind, I began to design a plan, then another, and another. I spent many early mornings making corrections and calculating possible effects, including foreign blockades. Although the traditional political forces could not count on the people's support, they had the support of the media and they had support abroad, which they would know how to use in a timely manner—which they did and are still doing. Sitting at my desk, I established D day and H hour. As "D" day approached, a document was signed in Santo Domingo whereby Inter-American Development Bank credits

were ensured. For some this was a sign that the 5 April decision was improvised. It was not.

[Text] I was well aware of the possibility that that agreement, as well as others to follow, could have undergone some type of delay or even cancellation, or that some type of international isolation could have taken place. Yet, I could not delay the pronouncement any longer because later on I would have found other reasons to postpone it. There was another more convincing reason. A reason sufficiently pondered. There was an urgent need to accomplish the country's pacification so the fundamental economic objectives that had cost the Peruvian people so much sacrifice could come about. There was need to work out everything, up to the finest details for this pronouncement to be as bloodless as possible. Not even the smallest details were overlooked to prevent any information related to the operation from being leaked. Thus, there were and there are no palace sources.

What took place after 5 April already is part of history. The operation was a complete success. Not one single person was injured or killed. As the Peruvian people well know, the process that lead to the installment of the Democratic Constituent Congress was plagued with obstacles that we faced one by one. It must be recalled that in the Bahamas, in an unprecedented, unusual, and surprise decision, I personally explained the reasons behind the measures taken. Furthermore, I denounced and condemned the political parties [partidocracia] by using the harshest terms that are well known by now. In that same forum, I took the opportunity to harmonize our schedule with that of the OAS without retreating from the measures taken. This schedule entailed the reopening of congress and the replacement of dismissed supreme court magistrates.

The 5 April measures were consolidating slowly. The Peruvian people continued to support these measures before and after the Bahamas meeting. They did it first in the streets through the various polls. Later on, they did it in a more formal manner through their votes. Weighing everything now, the most important feature now may be the climate of safety and confidence that has come about. A climate where investments can take place. Investments that will generate much expected employment.

From the first day I was sworn in as president of the Republic, I took over the direction of the struggle against terrorism. Not by going to the so-called battlefield to lead a military operation as some parliamentarians and politicians pretended I should do. That is histrionic, so much theater, and simply is not my style. I like results. I leave some things to others. I entered the Presidency with a strategy in mind. First of all, the purging of the police hierarchy, the positioning of the best-prepared officers in key positions and at the same time the strengthening of the national intelligence service. There was an urgent need for a change in the National Police and Armed Forces' attitude and conduct. I recall that I was severely criticized. Anytime some police or military operation failed, there were charges made that the reforms had failed. I was confident that results would be obtained after some time. The traditional politicians refused to acknowledge that this purge was able to eliminate the third terrorist group in the country which, by all accounts, was a paramilitary and parapolice [parapolicial] group. Progress became more and more evident. The people well remember the video that shows the until then mysterious and invisible Abimael Guzman transformed into a ridiculous dancer to the tune of a Greek melody, who can hardly stand due to drunkenness. The people well remember the so-called President Gonzalo leading a bash where other members of the Shining Path hierarchy also participated, in a drunken state similar to him.

The public forces were already very close to Public Enemy No. One. The days of freedom for the killer of thousands of citizens were drawing to an end. Finally came one of the Peruvian people's happiest days: the day Abimael Guzman Reynoso was captured. That was a day of national celebration.

For 10 years Abimael Guzman and his henchmen made a mockery of the state and its institutions. As they saw it, the state and its representatives were weak, fragile, a joke. They had reason to feel that way. During that decade, Guzman, alias President Gonzalo, was able to escape from a democratic president by claiming he had some nonexistent disease. He became an odd legend in the midst of bullying that went on for five years, during which many people died.

Progress has been made in Judicial Branch reform, especially in the struggle against terrorism. We established the military courts, the Repentance Law, the crime of treason against the fatherland, and life sentences. I will say this without false modesty: The greatest achievements of the period that followed 5 April have been the life sentence handed down to Abimael Guzman Reynoso by a military court and the life sentence handed down to Victor Polay Campos by an anonymous civilian court.

Neither of these two sentences would have been possible without the legislation that was promulgated after 5 April. Our hands would have been tied. Perhaps the two would still be facing a legal process. Perhaps they could have been released for, quote, lack of evidence, unquote, as the Supreme Court of Justice once ruled in an incredible 1991 ruling. The country has witnessed how the government and the forces of law have been able to advance the pacification process significantly.

Those who condemned, quote, the coup and the dictatorship, unquote, said many things that have been recorded by history. Some said that the country would be divided between the dictatorship and democracy and that Shining Path would benefit from this. What they

really wanted to say is that Guzman, because of Fujimori, would be able to establish himself at the head of the people's protest against Fujimori. That he would grow and would win.

Now, one year later, we know that such talk was just fiction. The complete opposite occurred. There is Guzman, completely defeated and hunched over in one of the world's most secure cells, to prove this assertion. Some eminent experts on the Shining Path defended that fantastic thesis. These experts also said abroad that civil war was at hand in Peru.

Those of us who live in Peru know that 1992 was a decisive year for the nation's future because it marked the beginning of a new stage in the struggle against terrorism. During this period we have taken the most efficient measures against terrorism. In addition to important arrests, the control that terrorists had in prisons and acts of vandalism at the universities have come to an end.

We have to say this with pride: What happened in our country is unprecedented in the world. The Western world's most ferocious kind of terrorism is being defeated, without bloodshed and without indiscriminate repression but by conducting efficient intelligence operations and by successfully securing the people's participation in the pacification effort.

The people of Peru, who for 12 years lived in fear, know that this sole achievement would fully justify the 5 April decision. National reconstruction and Peru's modernization were also unpostponable tasks of the process that was initiated then.

We Peruvians are beginning to build a new Peru. We are doing so, not only through an economy in keeping with the times,but through a sociopolitical system that truly reflects our overall desire and our national idiosyncrasy. After so much time, so many frustrations, we are beginning to feel that this country belongs to everyone, not just to a few politicians and intellectuals who persist in living with their backs turned to the real Peru. Today, we know that here and now we can build a dignified future for our children and grandchildren.

What better moment to begin the big task of making Peru the great country that we all want. Of course, a long road lies ahead. We must correct several errors that we must admit. All of this will require a lot of courage and sacrifice, knowing that our goal is the peace and development that we all desire.

Dear fellow citizens, I will never let you down in this purpose. Thank you very much for all your support you have given me so faithfully in this decisive year. Good night.

Fujimori Says Outlook for Overcoming Underdevelopment 'Improved'

PA0404125293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Two days before the first anniversary of the establishment of the National Emergency and Reconstruction Government on 5 April, President Alberto Fujimori made the following remarks in Puerto Nuevo, El Callao.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Now, things are beginning to change, just as Peru is beginning to change, because the people and the government decided to raise Peru out of the crisis. As a very clear signal, one of the chieftains of the Shining Path terrorist group, chieftain number one, was transferred to a jail. We are carrying out effective work to achieve peace and projects are being consolidated. The path now is clear. We have two days to go before 5 April. Peru is overcoming an untold number of obstacles that hamper its development. Now, the outlook for definitely overcoming our underdevelopment is improved.

We will overcome our underdevelopment when we work to modernize our society in all fields, our education, and the state apparatus. [applause] [end recording]

Poll on President's Popularity, Support for 5 Apr Coup

PA0404172893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Imasen has conducted a survey on the self-inflicted coup of 5 April 1992. The results are revealing. On the eve of the first anniversary of the self-inflicted coup of 5 April 1992, Imasen polled the population and the results are revealing. On the eve of the first anniversary of the self-inflicted coup, 44.9 percent of the population believe the measure adopted by President Fujimori was correct. A considerable 32.7 percent think the measures taken were censurable, but necessary. This implies that more than 75 percent of Peruvians support the so-called self-inflicted coup of President Fujimori. Only 18 percent of those polled condemned the measures adopted on 5 April.

Regarding the call for Constituent Congress elections, most of the population believe President Fujimori called for elections due to international pressure rather than his own initiative. Meanwhile, 38 percent of those surveyed think the president called for elections on his own initiative.

Finally, measuring the balance of power following the self-inflicted coup, the Imasen poll is more than revealing. One year after the self-inflicted coup, public opinion feels the president has more power now. Such perceptions are not as clear regarding the Armed Forces, which are viewed by the public as having the same or slightly more power than they had last year.

Meanwhile, people clearly perceive that the IMF has more power in Peru now, while the Church maintains its traditional weight.

Regarding the current dominance of Peruvian public opinion, opinions are divided, although nearly 40 percent of those polled believe their influence has grown.

Meanwhile, the public does not hesitate to state that political parties have lost power. Important businessmen, however, according to 46 percent of those polled, believe political parties have greater power.

Finally, the municipalities appear to have maintained their power, with Congress, while most of the population think labor unions now have less power than before 5 April 1992.

Fujimori Says Political Classes Must be Renewed

PA0604032393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2114 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said on 5 April that Latin America's political classes must be renewed. He added that the region's people have a new mentality because they favor plans "to build" and reject populist policies.

In an article written for the official newspaper EL PERUANO, the president said Latin America lost decades "that might have seen progress," given the implementation of erroneous economic policies "based on populism and demagoguery."

Fujimori wrote the article on the first anniversary of the 1992 coup d'etat, when he closed Congress and installed a special regime that ruled until December 1992—when the balance of power was restored with a Congress elected by the people.

"Given the people's rejection, Latin America's political class can only opt for change and renewal. A refusal to do this will represent its extinction," the Peruvian president stated.

Based on his experience after two and one-half years in power, Fujimori said "for 60 years this political class could not solve poverty and underdevelopment problems, yet it now demands an incredible and miraculous transformation in two or three years."

"This is what you perceive, in general terms, throughout Latin America. The opposition demands quick results from the modernization plans," he said.

He added, "Latin American people can no longer be manipulated by demagogues who seek the people's impatience to use it as political fuel. The people know that policies that seek easy solutions have provoked the crisis."

Fujimori said countries in the region "know all about statist, manipulative, populist, and socialist systems." He added: "The traditional political class is linked with those strategies and the ideologies that provide its support."

"That political class is an aberration that may include the mercantilist right or Bolshevik left," which "act as a bloc against any attempt to modernize the economy," the president said.

"Communists and populists use another strategy and attack economic reforms by demagogically stating welfare should be achieved in the shortest time possible."

The Peruvian president said the results of populist policies in Latin America "have been many, but the overall feeling is that we have lost decades in which we might have achieved progress and development."

"This is now being corrected, drastically, in Peru and other countries," he said.

Justice Ministry Dismisses 26 La Libertad Judges

PA0604043093 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] As part of the Judicial Branch reorganization program, the Justice Ministry has dismissed 26 judges in La Libertad judicial district. The discharged judges worked in the Choco, Pepa, Atcas, Otuzco, Trujillo, and Santiago de Chuco courts.

APRA Members Stage Disturbances in Lima

PA0604031493 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0203 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Lima, 5 Apr (DPA)—Dozens of young members of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) staged serious disturbances in downtown Lima on 5 April, the first anniversary of President Alberto Fujimori's "self-inflicted coup."

Members of APRA's youth group gathered in the city's main streets and apparently planned to go to the Government Palace but were intercepted by the police, which led to the incidents. No victims were reported.

The youths set tires on fire and sang slogans against the government, particularly against the interruption of constitutional order by President Alberto Fujimori on 5 April 1992.

The APRA was the party most affected by the coup because that same night its secretary general, former president Alan Garcia, went into hiding. Former Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla was arrested allegedly for illegally possessing weapons.

The party, now viewed as the populist left wing and as the party with 100 years of the strongest traditions, suffered a considerable loss of prestige following Garcia's government. It is the party that has taken the most radical position against Fujimori.

The incidents were the only ones reported in Lima on the anniversary of the coup. Calm in the provinces was broken by a subversive attack in northern La Libertad Department, where 11 members of the Armed Forces were killed.

Police, Army Forces Clash With Shining Path

PA0504193893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Eleven persons were killed during one of the harshest clashes joint police and Army forces have had with Shining Path in La Libertad mountain range. The clash took place in Quesquenda village, two hours from Huamachuco, in Sanchez Carrion Province, La Libertad Department.

The ambush and clash occurred when the joint forces were conducting a patrol in search of terrorists. The dead include seven members of the National Police, three from the Army, and one civilian. Casualties among the terrorist ranks are unknown.

Abimael Guzman Transferred to Naval Base

PA0504170493 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Report by Alejandro Barbero]

[Text] On 3 April, Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman Reynoso was transferred to a prison at El Callao Naval Base, where he will remain for the rest of his life.

Very few people in Peruvian history have received life sentences, but very few people in our history deserved it. The top leaders of the Peruvian Communist Party, Shining Path, responsible for creating a destructive and bloody war machine and who declared war on the country, were sentenced to life imprisonment on 7 October 1992. Since that day, Shining Path leader Manuel Ruben Abimael Guzman Reynoso [name as heard] has seen the days pass by, totally isolated in a provisional jail at San Lorenzo Island. On 3 April he was transferred to his final jail, where he will spend the rest of his days serving a life sentence.

A large group of local and foreign journalists witnessed the transfer from boats docked near San Lorenzo Island. At noon, several Marines arrived at the entrance to the prison and removed the man who called himself President Gonzalo. Guzman looked thinner and his limp was more noticeable, but he maintained the arrogant attitude he adopts when he knows he is in front of the television cameras and photographers. He was taken in a station wagon to San Lorenzo Dock, where a Marine walked by his side carrying a suitcase with a few personal belongings. That was Abimael Guzman's last public appearance; from now on he will only be a memory, as the new prison built especially for him is 4 meters underground, and not even the guards in charge of his custody will have contact with him.

There were only approximately 150 steps from the dock to the launch, and the boat ride to El Callao was just 30 minutes long. After that, he will never see the sun again.

The music being played in the background was composed especially for Guzman by his followers. They proclaimed him the fourth sword of Marxism, the guarantee for victory, and the president of the new state. At his time of total defeat, when he most likely wants to get things over with, the words in that song probably have no meaning for him, much less for his followers.

The launch left the dock followed by several Marines in Zodiac boats. Journalists stopped filming. The island remained in the background, but it is not uninhabited. Two persons who saw their leader and comrade leave remain inside a building surrounded by armed guards and barbwire. They are Elena Iparraguirre Revoredo, alias Comrade Miriam, Guzman's common-law wife and second in the party's leadership; and Zenon Vargas Cardenas, alias Comrade Arturo, former Shining Path logistics chief.

On the eve of Guzman's transfer, Elena Iparraguirre's request to see him for the last time was denied. Then she asked to receive the chess game Guzman made for himself with bread crumbs. That request was also denied. Life in prison has been hard for Shining Path leaders. Miriam was Guzman's second common-law wife, after Augusta Latorre, Nora, who vehemently defended him the day of his arrest. Elena Iparraguirre will remain in Cell A-14 in San Lorenzo Island a few more days. She will then be transferred to a final jail to share her life sentence with other Shining Path leaders. She also looked thinner, more passive and resigned. As she smokes, perhaps she is meditating on the long days she must serve in jail.

Zenon Vargas Cardenas, Comrade Arturo, was judged with Abimael Guzman. The day the sentence was announced, he shouted slogans for the Communist Party, Shining Path. He also declared himself ready to die for his President Gonzalo. In the next few days he will be taken to another jail, where he too, will serve a life sentence. After that, there will be no one left on the island, and at least there, Shining Path will just be a memory.

Venezuela

* Velasquez: AD Conspiring Against Causa R

* Plan To Thwart Election Win

93SM0201A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Mar 93 p D2

[Article by Milagros Duran: "Alfaro and Morales Bello Planning Coup 'To Prevent My 1993 Victory'"]

[Text] Andres Velasquez, the governor of the State of Bolivar, held a press conference yesterday on the premises of the Causa R faction of the CSE [Supreme

Electoral Council] to denounce a destabilization plan he said the top Democratic Action (AD) leadership is forging in order to frustrate his possible victory in the presidential election.

Specifically, he named Luis Alfaro Ucero and David Morales Bello as the two leaders who are making contact with various sectors of the National Armed Forces with a view to drafting the plan against him and against the democratic system, one designed to prevent the future electoral triumph of the Causa R.

"Last 21 February, Luis Alfaro Ucero and David Morales Bello went to Caicara, in the State of Bolivar, accompanied by three military officers wearing civilian garb. They were apparently 'dressing down' some high-ranking Venezuelan officers. They said that if the likelihood that my candidacy will triumph continues to be consolidated by the month of May, their plan is to be ready to 'break the constitutional thread,' as they themselves put it."

Charges Termed False

Concerning the accusations made by the CEN [National Executive Committee] of the Democratic Action charging that Pablo Medina, the secretary general of the Causa R, went to Peru to deliver money to General Efrain Visconti, who headed the 27 November attempted coup, Andres Velasquez said:

"These accusations seem ridiculous to us. The AD is again insisting on its fantasy, claiming that the Causa R favors a coup, when everyone knows about our position and our proposals for a peaceful and constitutional solution at this time means nothing other than suggesting to the Venezuelan people that they wait for us until December. In addition, everyone knows how limited the resources of our organization are. And if we had any solidarity to offer to these military representatives, it would of course be to their families here in Caracas."

* AD Refutes Allegations

93SM0201B Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p D2

[Article by Rafael Nunez: "Morales Bello Believes Velasquez To Be a Psychiatric Case"]

[Text] "Governor Andres Velasquez has moved from his usual extravagance into the realm of psychiatry," Senator David Morales Bello said yesterday in refuting the charges made by the Causa R. The accusations made by this Causa R representative link Morales Bello, together with Luis Alfaro Ucero, the secretary general of the AD [Democratic Action], with an alleged plan for a coup d'etat to prevent the future triumph of Velasquez in the December presidential election.

"Very often, those who are mentally disturbed give the impression of being sincere, because their mental machinations are so basic. But the truth is they are only expressing what they are experiencing in the unreal world that constitutes their reality," Morales Bello said.

When he was reminded that a similar situation exists with the internal AD charges concerning an alleged link between Pablo Medina and the military officers involved in the events of 27 November, and who have now sought asylum in Peru, Morales Bello said that these are two different things.

"The Velasquez business is a smokescreen he is putting out, with an immediate statement that he has not the slightest proof of what he is saying. He says this so that people may choose whether to believe it or not. Naturally, as he believes it, he wants others to believe it too," Morales Bello said.

We asked if he had proof of Causa R financing of Visconti in Peru.

"I believe so. When Luis Emilio Rondon spoke about this, he did not waver, and for this reason I say that there is no comparison between the two things."

Morales Bello denied that he had visited Caicara de Maturin, as the governor of Bolivar claimed he did. And he said that "people suffering from mental disturbances imagine situations and experience them as if they were real. And so I am certain that if somebody were to pick Mr. Velasquez up and shake him, he would say that this is true. But this is only the result of his mental condition, because his head has become muddled."

The senator also denied the existence of an Aguila 2 Plan allegedly supported by Luis Alfaro Ucero, the secretary general of the AD, which Gabriel Puerta Aponte claimed threatened his life. In this connection, Morales Bello said that this too is a part of the same farce.